

**Report of Director of Childrens Services**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

**Subject: Learning Places for Leeds Overview**



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

All children and young people should be able to achieve well at school, from the earliest years through primary and secondary education, no matter what their background. The goal of the education system in Leeds is to enable all young people to have the best opportunities and to gain the right qualifications for rewarding employment and independence as they become young adults. Securing good quality learning places in every community is essential for every young person to have the best start in life.

Leeds City Council has a statutory duty to ensure the provision of good quality learning places and to secure an appropriate balance locally between education supply, demand, choice and diversity. It is the role of the City Council to plan, organise and commission learning places in Leeds in a way that raises educational standards, manages fluctuations in pupil numbers and creates a diverse community of good schools. The Authority seeks to exercise this function in partnership with children and families, elected members, dioceses, governing bodies of schools, head teachers, local communities and other key stakeholders.

Planning for changes in demand for education places is an important function which can only be fulfilled locally, at a level above the individual schools. Estimating school places is a complex process and rapid shifts in demographic changes, economic conditions, patterns of migration and house building create uncertainties that require robust methodologies and responsive implementation. It is imperative that the best information on housing, access to services, economic development and regeneration are brought together, alongside data held by other agencies, to inform the future needs for school

places. Planning for learning needs to take into account the requirement to provide a learning offer across a wide age spectrum from eligible 2 year olds right up to 17 year olds.

This overview supports the Learning for Leeds Outline Strategy agreed by the Executive Board in July 2013 (Appendix 1). It details the key work undertaken to ensure sufficiency of learning places for children & young people in Leeds, outlines the challenges we must meet in future, and provides key updates which shape the new environment in which we must face these challenges.

## **Recommendations**

Scrutiny Board is asked to:

- Note the information contained within this report.
- Support the emerging strategy and key principles required to ensure sufficient, good quality learning places for children and young people in Leeds as agreed by Executive Board in July 2013.

### **1 Purpose of this report**

1.1 This overview supports the Learning for Leeds Outline Strategy agreed by the Executive Board in July 2013. It details the key work undertaken to ensure sufficiency of learning places for children & young people in Leeds and provides key updates which shape the new environment in which we must face this challenge.

### **2 Background information**

#### **2.2 Learning Place Pressure**

2.3 For 2014 -2016, a total of 50 primary forms of entry are required to manage the increase in pupil numbers with 22 forms of entry required for 2014. Of the 22 forms of entry for 2014, 1/3 are permanent provision and 2/3 are bulge cohorts to manage a short term, one off increase in pupil numbers.

2.4 For secondary places, the pressure from current known birth rate has already been seen in the South for September 13 admissions to Year 7, by 2017 there will not be any spare places across the city. 7 new secondary schools will be required across the city to accommodate this pressure (8 if the proposed free school for the city centre does not come to fruition), depending on whether existing schools can expand their admissions.

2.5 The following table shows the areas where further primary school places, both permanent and bulge cohorts, are required, the number required and by when. The scale of the expansion quantified here is purely based on birth rates and does not account for any proposed housing that has not yet commenced building. The table shows the minimum number of places required to ensure every child in Leeds has a place. The latest birth data is expected in late-September and once received this table will be refreshed.

Table 1

Planning Area	Places required	Permanent or Bulge	Required By	Expansion/new site	Comments	RAG
Alwoodley	15	Bulge	2014			
Ardsley/Tingley	15	Permanent	2013	Expansion		
Armley	30	Permanent	2013	Expansion or new site		
Wortley	30	Permanent	2015	Expansion or new site		
Beeston/Holbeck	30	Bulge	2013			
	45	Permanent	2014	New site		
	15	Permanent	2016			
Hunslet	10	Bulge	2015			
Belle Isle	30	Permanent ?	2015		Need updated birth data before we can confirm if perm needed	
Bramhope	15	Bulge	2015			
Bramley	30	Permanent	2013	New site		
	30	Permanent	2015	New site		
Burmantofts	45	Permanent	2016	Expansion or new site		
Calverley	30	Bulge	2013	Expansion or new site linked with adjoining area		
	15	Permanent	2015			
Chapel Allerton	30		2016		Need updated birth data to establish whether 2016 is a bulge year or whether perm places needed.	
Farnley	15	Bulge	2015	Expansion		
Farsley	30	Permanent	2015	Expansion		
Gildersome / Drighlington	5	Bulge	2014			
Guiseley/Yeadon/Rawdon	30	Bulge	2014			
	30	Permanent	2015	Expansion		
Harehills	60	Permanent ?	2016		Need AHA data in Sept 2013 to establish whether 2016 a bulge year only.	
Horsforth	30	Permanent	2014	Expansion		
Hyde Park / Headingley	30	Bulge	2013			
	30	Permanent	2015	New site		

			2016		Possibly another 1FE required for 2016 but need Sept 2013 data to establish whether a one-off or continuing trend	
Kirkstall	25	Permanent	2014	expansion or new site		
	30	Permanent	2016			
Lower Aire Valley	30	Bulge	2013			
	30	Permanent	2014	Expansion		
	30	Bulge	2013			
Middleton	30	permanent	2014	Expansion and new site		
	15	permanent	2016			
Morley	30	permanent	2013	Expansion		
Osmondthorpe / Templenewsam	15	bulge	2013			
Otley	15	Bulge	2013 and 2014		May need to create permanent places when new housing starts	
Pudsey	30	Permanent	2014	Expansion		
Rothwell	15	Permanent	2014	Expansion		
Roundhay / Wigton	15	Bulge	2013			
	30	Bulge	2015			
Seacroft	30	Bulge	2014		Monitor numbers for 2015 onwards as 2014 peak year and bulge may be enough. However, housing in area could turn this into a permanent expansion for 2015	
Stanningley	60	Permanent	2015	new site		
Swarcliffe / Whinmoor	30	Bulge	2014		Monitor numbers for 2015 onwards as 2014 peak year and bulge may be enough. However, needs	

					to be considered alongside ELE	
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- 2.6 Further background information can be found in the appended 'Primary and Secondary Pressure Maps' (Appendix 2) and the 'Learning for Leeds – Setting our strategic direction for ensuring sufficient good quality school places' report which was seen and agreed by the Executive Board in July 2013.
- 2.7 Places approved
- 2.8 Since the Basic Needs programme began in 2009, 1020 additional reception places have been approved, with a further 98 that have recently been the subject of statutory notice and are awaiting a final decision and a further 45 places which have been consulted upon over the last 6 weeks.
- 2.9 Full details of the places approved since December 2012, as well as proposals to be considered at the Sept 2013 Exec Board, can be found in the 'Basic need update for area committee report Sept 13 v2' (Appendix 3).
- 2.10 Primary and Secondary Admissions
- 2.11 There are now national closing dates for applications and for making offers. Secondary applications must be submitted by 31 October and offers are made on 1 March. In Leeds 84% of parents were offered their first preference school (the same as last year) and 95% were offered one of their top three (94% last year). There were 7707 places allocated, a rise from 7568 last year.
- 2.12 Primary applications must be submitted by 15 January each year and offers are made on 16 April. In Leeds 85% (84% last year) were offered their first preference with 94% (same as last year) offered one of their top three preferences. There were 9355 places allocated which is an increase from 9154 at the same point last year.
- 2.13 Free Schools
- 2.14 Currently one Free School operates in Leeds. This is the Lighthouse School Leeds which offers secondary provision for up to 50 young people aged 11 to 19 with an autistic spectrum condition (ASC) or related communication disorder.
- 2.15 In addition the following free schools have approval to open in September 2013:
- 2.15.1 Leeds Jewish Free School
- Secondary provision established on the site of the existing Brodetsky primary school. They have an Orthodox Jewish designation. It will provide 25 places per year group. Their secondary provision is being supported by Rodillian Academy.

## 2.15.2 Khalsa Science Academy

- The Sikh community have opened a non-faith based 1FE primary school with a Sikh ethos. Initially it has opened on next to the Temple in Chapeltown, but they are working with the Education Funding Agency to find a permanent location for the school.

2.16 The local authority received confirmation that the following applications to establish free schools in Leeds have been approved to the pre-opening stage for a September 2014 opening:

### 2.16.3 Schools Partnership Trust (SPT)

- The proposal is to open one free school, which they intend to run across three sites, in Doncaster, Grimsby and Leeds. The school will provide alternative provision for students with behavioural needs and some with mild autism across the 4–19 age range, with 460 places in total across the three sites.
- The Leeds site will have a permanent location in an existing SPT building – Fusion Court, Garforth.

### 2.16.4 The Ruth Gorse Academy

- The plan for the Ruth Gorse Academy is being led by the Leeds Sustainable Development Group (LSDG), in partnership with the Gorse Academies Trust – a charitable company which already oversees the Morley and Farnley Academies in Leeds.
- The Ruth Gorse Academy will have 1580 pupils when full. In their first year they will have 190 year 7 places and 50 year 12 places. We understand they have strong evidence of demand in both their first and second years.
- The Gorse Academies Trust has expressed an intention to establish the academy on a site to the South of the city centre. Early interest was expressed in a potential privately built site for the school to be based at Water Lane (inner South Leeds) although other nearby sites are also being considered.

2.17 We meet monthly with both the Education Funding Agency and the DfE and receive updates of any applications made to establish further free schools in the city and to coordinate basic need planning with the national Free School programme. We continue to engage potential education providers to work together to ensure that any new provision created is available in those areas of the city with the greatest need and is joined up with our existing place planning.

## 2.18 Basic Need Allocation and the Targeted Basic Need Programme

2.19 In recent years basic need funding has been confirmed for a year at a time which is not ideal in terms of developing long term plans. However, the Department for Education (DfE) has recognised this difficulty and successful negotiations saw the local authority receive a basic need allocation of £36m for 2013-2015. This figure

is the 4<sup>th</sup> highest allocation outside of London, the 7<sup>th</sup> highest nationally, and reflects the scale of the pressures facing Leeds.

2.20 In addition to the basic need allocation the government announced that £982m of funding would be made available in the form of the Targeted Basic Need Programme to increase school places nationwide. The local authority submitted a total of 11 bids for additional government funding to secure a range of new and expanded primary, secondary and SEN provision.

2.21 Outcomes of the bidding process were received in July 2013. Leeds were successful with 7 bids which included two SILCs and five primary expansions, resulting in an allocation of £13.8m capital funding.

2.22 No bids for additional secondary provision were successful and this matches the general picture nationally as the demographic data does not yet demonstrate the greatest pressure.

### **3 Main issues**

3.1 A summary of the main issues the city faces in ensuring sufficiency of school places for children and young people in Leeds can be found in the 'Learning for Leeds – Setting our strategic direction for ensuring sufficient good quality school places' report which was seen and agreed by the Executive Board in July 2013.

### **4 Corporate Considerations**

4.1 Detailed in the 'Learning for Leeds – Setting our strategic direction for ensuring sufficient good quality school places' report which was seen and agreed by the Executive Board in July 2013.

#### **4.2 Consultation and Engagement**

4.3 As above

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

4.5 As above

#### **4.6 Council policies and City Priorities**

4.7 As above

#### **4.8 Resources and value for money**

4.9 As above

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

4.11 As above

#### **4.12 Risk Management**

4.13 As above

## **5 Conclusions**

- 5.1 An outline strategic approach and key principles have been agreed by the Executive Board.
- 5.2 For 2014 -2016, a total of 50 primary forms of entry are required to manage the increase in pupil numbers. By 2017, without action, no surplus secondary places will be available across the city.
- 5.3 Since the Basic Need Programme began in 2009, 1020 additional reception places have been approved, with a further 98 that have recently been the subject of statutory notice and are awaiting a final decision and a further 45 places which have been consulted upon over the last 6 weeks.
- 5.4 The outcome of the latest primary admissions round was positive with 85% of parents (84% last year) offered their first preference and 94% (same as last year) offered one of their top three preferences
- 5.5 The outcome of the latest secondary admissions round was positive with 84% of parents were offered their first preference school (the same as last year) and 95% were offered one of their top three (94% last year).
- 5.6 The outcome of the Leeds Targeted Basic Need bid to secure additional government funding to deliver school places in Leeds was successful and resulted in an allocation of £13.8m capital funding, specific to 7 schemes.
- 5.7 We are working with the EFA and DfE to coordinate basic need planning with the national Free School programme

## **6 Recommendations**

Scrutiny Board is asked to:

- Note the information contained within this report.
- Support the emerging strategy and key principles required to ensure sufficient, good quality learning places for children and young people in Leeds.

## **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.