

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 19th September 2013

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry into Raising Attainment in Maths and English

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" 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

- 1 At its meeting on the 20th of June 2012, the Scrutiny Board was presented with an overview of The Leeds Education Challenge, a city-wide campaign to accelerate improvement in learning outcomes for 180,000 children and young people by:
 - Realigning resources
 - Developing a school led improvement strategy
 - Ensuring equality
 - Promoting challenge, partnership and innovation
- 2 The presentation highlighted that general attainment is close to national averages however improvement rates are slow. Comparative data also highlighted that Leeds' position when compared to 151 other authorities was particularly low for GCSE attainment 5 A*-C, which included English and maths.
- 3 The Board resolved to undertake an inquiry into raising attainment in maths and English as it was evident there are a number of barriers preventing children and young people in Leeds from achieving maths and English qualifications.
- 4 The Board conducted its inquiry by working group over five sessions commencing on the 18th December 2012 and concluding on the 7th May 2012.
- 5 Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 13.2 states that "where a Scrutiny Board is

considering making specific recommendations it shall invite advice from the appropriate Director(s) prior to finalising its recommendations. The Director shall consult with the appropriate Executive Member before providing any such advice. The detail of that advice shall be reported to the Scrutiny Board and considered before the report is finalised”.

- 6 Any advice received will be reported at the Board’s meeting for consideration, before the Board finalises its report.
- 7 Once the Board publishes its final report, the appropriate Director(s) will be asked to formally respond to the Scrutiny Board’s recommendations within three months.

Recommendations

- 8 Members are asked to consider and agree the Board’s report following its inquiry into Raising Attainment in Maths and English.

Background documents

- 9 None used¹

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.