

Report of the Director of Children's Services

Report to Inner West area committee

Date: 19 March 2014

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):	Armley, Bramley and Stanningley	
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. The number of children subject to a child protection plan in this area reduced by almost 50 per cent, the second highest reduction of all area committees.
2. Secondary school attendance rose slightly in this area, although remains low when compared to the citywide average.
3. Local priorities are to be agreed, if required, with the local lead member for Children's Services.

Recommendations

4. Discuss whether local priorities need to be defined more clearly at a local level, in addition to the Children's Services obsessions. These priorities may include a focus on a specific element of one of the obsessions.
5. Consider the outcomes from the basic need workshop that took place in January, the March OBA session, and ongoing consultation with schools to provide local intelligence for consideration in school place planning and to instruct officers on improved methods of member engagement in school place planning.
6. Promote igen and the Leeds Pathways website to NEET young people/their families.

1 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 This report provides members with a comprehensive set of children's information in an increasingly succinct manner. Common feedback is to build on this with more local context. There are established city priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), especially the obsessions. The purpose of this cycle of reports is to understand if there are any local priorities that should also be regularly highlighted in these reports, for example a focus on a particular aspect of one of the obsessions. For this committee it is recommended that the local lead member for Children's Services works with the area head of targeted services to identify local priorities for the committee's approval.

2 Background information

- 2.1 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 CYPP, 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.

3 Main issues

- 3.1 This section provides an update on performance data, successes, and issues within the area committee. A Children's Services summary is in appendix one.

Local updates

- 3.2 Table one presents a summary of the area committee's performance data, and compares the trend/direction of travel to the city trends. A full set of the area's performance data is in appendix two.

Table one: summary of the area committee's performance data

	December 2013	December 2012	Trend	Comparison to city trend
Children looked after	139 (10.3%)	156 (11.2%)	↓	Larger reduction
Children subject to a child protection plan	66 (9.0%)	129 (13.5%)	↓	Larger reduction
CAFs initiated	72	55	↑	Smaller rise
Primary school attendance	95.2%	95.5%	↓	Smaller reduction
Secondary school attendance	91.0%	90.8%	↑	Rise vs city static
Primary school persistent absence	115	133	↓	Larger reduction
Secondary school persistent absence	253	328	↓	Larger reduction
NEET young people; unadjusted	146 (9.3%)	121 (7.5%)	↑	Larger rise
Not known young people	119 (7.6%)	180 (11.1%)	↓	Larger reduction
Foundation Stage good level of dev	36.7%	n/a		Lower than city
KS2 level 4+ reading, writing, maths	68.3%	70.0%	↓	Reduction vs city rise
5+ A*-C GCSE inc English and maths	42.0%	42.5%	↓	Reduction vs city rise
Free school meal uptake - primary	74.7%	75.1%	↓	Smaller reduction
Free school meal uptake - secondary	71.5%	71.4%	↑	Rise vs city reduction
10-17 year-olds committing an offence	62	64	↓	Smaller reduction

- 3.3 Children looked after numbers in the area reduced by a larger proportion than the citywide reduction. Fewer children are entering care, and greater numbers are leaving as permanence options such as adoption are rising.
- 3.4 The number of children subject to a child protection plan in this area reduced by almost 50 per cent, the second highest reduction of all area committees. Child protection numbers are safely and appropriately reducing across the city due to a focus on more better alternatives instead of initial child protection conferences: early help initiatives and multi-agency working, for example, reducing the need for child protection plans. The number of common assessment frameworks (CAFs) initiated across the city have risen in the last 12 months, supporting the use of early help initiatives.
- 3.5 Secondary school attendance rose slightly in this area, although remains low when compared to the citywide average. The data for both secondary schools is listed in appendix one, and shows that attendance at Swallow Hill remains a concern. Primary school attendance reduced by a small amount in this area but remains close to the city average (0.2 points below).
- 3.6 Attendance at both phases was affected by illness in the autumn term of 2012/13. Despite the reduction in attendance due to illness, persistent absence (those pupils missing at least 15 per cent of sessions) reduced in this area. Information on current year (2013/14) attendance levels is not yet available.
- 3.7 This area saw a rise in the percentage of NEET young people. The number of not knowns, however, reduced by a higher proportion than the citywide average. The number of not knowns may actually be lower: UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) have, for legal reasons, been unable to share admissions data with local authorities. This has led to an increase in the not known figures as up to 500 young people's statuses are usually recorded from UCAS data.
- 3.8 Support for 18 and 19 year olds who are claiming out of work benefits is available by going to the igen centre on Eastgate or by viewing the Leeds Pathways website¹, as these young people are eligible for support. Promoting these routes through elected members' surgeries or through local networks will help a greater number of young people access advice and support to help improve their ability to access appropriate employment or training.
- 3.9 Aggregated results for foundation stage, and key stages two and four, in the Inner West area are below citywide levels. The key stage two and four results were lower than the previous years' results. Individual schools have access to detailed information relating to their children and young people, and will use this to inform school improvement plans, implement targeted intervention, and use the pupil premium to raise standards for disadvantaged pupils.
- 3.10 A small team of Leeds headteachers and partners are seconded to work with the Local Authority on a part-time basis to help accelerate the rate of improvement across the city. There are currently eight such secondments: four primary headteachers (working within the 0-11 phase), two secondary headteachers

¹ www.leedspathways.org.uk

(working within the 11-19 phase) and two SILC principals (cross-phase). The introduction and implementation of the Learning Improvement Strategy, which categorises schools and identifies the level of support required has developed the role of the local authority in relation to challenge and intervention, which has strengthened the partnership with headteachers and governors.

- 3.11 A slight reduction in the take-up of free school meals was seen in primary schools in the area, although there was a rise at secondary schools in the area. All key stage one pupils will be entitled to a free school meal from September 2014 due to a national policy change.
- 3.12 All area committees have identified a lead member for Children's Services, who will work with the area head of targeted services to discuss whether local priorities need to be defined more clearly at a local level, in addition to the Children's Services obsessions. These priorities will shape future area committee reports.

Service updates

- 3.13 Families First is Leeds' approach to the national Troubled Families programme. 'Troubled families' are "characterised by there being no adult in the family working, children not being in school and family members being involved in crime and anti-social behaviour"². The government have set a target for 120,000 families to be 'turned around' during the current Parliament. For each family that is 'turned around' a set amount of money may be claimed under the programme's payments by result criteria.
- 3.14 Leeds has 2,180 troubled families, a target set by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Approximately 1,400 families are currently receiving support since the start of the programme, with payments by result claimed on 532 families (24 per cent of the cohort). A breakdown of households by cluster and area committee is in appendix three.
- 3.15 For the clusters in the Inner West, a total of 110 families (46 per cent) of the identified cohort have made sufficient progress to achieve payment by results - 'turned around'. This compares with 41 per cent for the city overall; and a national average of 33 per cent, based on other local authority submissions. A separate report provides more detail.

Basic need update

- 3.16 Area committees are hosting basic need workshops during early 2014, facilitated by officers from children's services and planning. The Inner West workshop took place in January. General principles arising from the workshops will be taken to the Cross Party Basic Need Steering Group for agreement and implementation within the basic need programme. Locality-specific queries and suggestions will be captured and actioned by officers. The objectives of the workshops are:

² [The Troubled Families programme, Communities and Local Government](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/11469/2117840.pdf)
(https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/11469/2117840.pdf)

- Supporting members' in-depth understanding of national school place planning policy, local school place planning context, and key challenges to the delivery of sufficient school places.
- Developing an improved approach to ensuring strong join-up between elected members, officers, and local stakeholders.
- Engaging in early discussions with the aim of identifying and delivering the best local solutions.

3.17 One of the outcomes from the January workshop was to hold an OBA workshop on school places and local engagement. Invitations and details of this workshop will be available in mid-March.

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. The area committee summary sheets currently being developed build on wider priorities and the Children's Services obsessions, and incorporate locally-agreed priorities.

4.4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 Families First is a payment by results scheme. For every family 'turned around', the local authority can claim additional payments if successful across the full range of indicators.

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 Discuss whether local priorities need to be defined more clearly at a local level, in addition to the Children's Services obsessions. The priorities will be agreed between the local lead member for Children's Services and the area head of targeted services. These priorities may include a focus on a specific element of one of the obsessions.
- 6.2 Members are recommended to consider the outcomes from the basic need workshop that took place in January, the March OBA session, and ongoing consultation with schools to provide local intelligence for consideration in school place planning and to instruct officers on improved methods of member engagement in school place planning.
- 6.3 Promote the use of the igen centre on Eastgate, and the Leeds Pathways website, to NEET young people and their families, so igen are aware which 18 and 19 year olds are claiming out of work benefits and are eligible to receive support, so that young people's routes to employment and training is enhanced.

7 Background documents³

- 7.1 There are no background documents to accompany this report.

³ 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: Children's Services' update

The 'best council and best city' ambition to make Leeds a child friendly city has continued to build momentum in recent months. The Yorkshire Evening Post has launched its support with a series of features, an ongoing commitment to raise the profile of the city's children and young people, and an appeal to businesses to join the campaign. This has coincided with the first Child Friendly Leeds Awards, hosted by City Varieties, sponsored by British Gas, and planned, run and presented entirely by children and young people. Over the coming year, a key focus of this ambition will be achieving a consistent one-council approach so that children and young people are increasingly at the heart of decision-making over issues and developments that affect them.

This growing momentum, however, comes at a time when services are continuing to address significant issues. As with all areas of the council, children's services must address major financial challenges, with approximately £18 million in savings needed during 2014/15. Clear action plans are in place to achieve this. Despite this challenge, through the citywide partnership of the Children's Trust Board and the shared vision outcomes and priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP), Leeds is continuing its clear strategy of investing in early intervention and preventative services, working restoratively with families to address their problems at an earlier stage and prevent escalation. The family group conferencing programme is continuing to develop; recent analysis shows that it has already safely and appropriately prevented 55 children and young people in Leeds from needing to be placed in care, with significant financial savings being made as a result.

The service is preparing for an Ofsted inspection, anticipated in spring 2014, which will last for up to four weeks and review a wide range of services that support the most vulnerable children. A number of other authorities have recently been inspected under this new framework and Leeds is actively looking to learn from their experiences to support our preparations. The learning from this inspection will significantly shape the direction of the service over the next period.

Children's services has maintained the relentless focus on the three obsessions in the CYPP, which have seen improvements across each. In addition, there are several other current priority areas of work for the service citywide:

- *Frameworki*, the replacement for the electronic social care recording system has been implemented. The focus is now on managing the transition to the new system and enabling staff to maximise its potential
- The need to provide sufficient school places, given the city's population growth, continues to be a key statutory priority for the local authority and a clear programme is in place to manage this.
- Leeds is at the forefront of a regional drive to increase educational standards and has recently hosted a major education summit with more than 260 national and regional attendees. A particular focus of our work with schools over the coming year will be on supporting pupils at major transition points in their lives by ensuring they are 'ready for learning'.
- Drawing on international best practice, we are exploring how we can maximise the potential of the council's wider work on community and citizen engagement by developing our existing cluster model. This work is in early development, but is key to the next stage of pushing more services out to localities. There will be further details on this work at future area committees.

Appendix two: performance data for Inner West area committee

Spring 2014 Children's Services performance update

Measure	Leeds	Inner W	Current data period	Highest	Average	Lowest
1. Number of children and young people 0-19	173,462	11,609	January 2014	24,510	17,289	11,609
2. Percentage of children and young people	n/a	6.7%	January 2014	14.1%	10.0%	6.7%
3. Number of primary schools	218	15	Current	28	22	15
4a. Number of secondary schools	36	2	Current	6	4	2
4b. Number of through schools	2	0	Current	2	0	0
5. Number of children's centres	56	5	Current	9	6	2

Commentary

The Inner West area committee has 6.7 per cent of the city's 0-19 population (the smallest proportion of all area committees). There are 15 primary schools, two secondary schools, and five children's centres located within the area committee boundary.

Keeping children safe from harm	Leeds	Inner W			Current data period	Highest	Average	Lowest
		Current reporting period	Previous reporting period	Direction of travel				
6. Number of children looked after	1,356	139	156	↓	20 Jan 2014	356	123	17
7. Number of children entering care	-	-	28		Apr-Dec 2013	-	-	-
8. Number of children subject to a child protection plan	737	66	129	↓	20 Jan 2014	155	69	13
9. Number of CAFs initiated	867	71	55	↑	Apr-Dec 2013	162	84	30
10. Number of requests for service	-	-	2,387		Apr-Dec 2013	-	-	-
11. Number of requests for service leading to a referral	-	-	779		Apr-Dec 2013	-	-	-

Do well in learning and have the skills for life	Leeds	Inner W			Current data period	Highest	Average	Lowest
		Current reporting period	Previous reporting period	Direction of travel				
12. Primary school attendance levels	95.4%	95.2%	95.5%	↓	2012/13 HT 1-5	96.4%	95.4%	94.1%
13. Secondary school attendance levels	93.7%	91.0%	90.8%	↑	2012/13 HT 1-5	94.7%	93.4%	91.0%
14. Number of pupils persistently absent at primary	1,532	115	133	↓	2012/13 HT 1-5	373	153	61
15. Number of pupils persistently absent at secondary	2,748	253	328	↓	2012/13 HT 1-5	438	275	163
16a. Number of NEET young people (unadjusted)	1,540	146	121	↑	31 Dec 2013	338	143	44
16b. Percentage of NEET young people (unadjusted)	6.9%	9.3%	7.5%	↑	31 Dec 2013	10.7%	6.3%	3.0%
16c. Number of NEET young people (adjusted)	1,540	154	-	n/a	31 Dec 2013	350	153	48
16d. Percentage of NEET young people (adjusted)	6.9%	9.9%	-	n/a	31 Dec 2013	11.3%	6.8%	3.3%
17a. Number of 'not knows'	1,630	119	180	↓	31 Dec 2013	202	145	60
17b. Percentage of 'not knows'	7.1%	7.6%	11.1%	↓	31 Dec 2013	8.4%	6.5%	4.2%
18. Foundation Stage good level of development	51%	36.7%	n/a	(Change of definition)	2012/13 AY	64.7%	51.8%	36.7%
19. Key Stage 2 level 4+ reading, writing, and maths	74.0%	68.3%	70.0%	↓	2012/13 AY	85.7%	74.2%	65.3%
20. 5+ A*-C GCSE including English and maths	57.3%	42.0%	42.5%	↓	2012/13 AY	70.5%	54.5%	41.5%
Choose healthy lifestyles								
21. Free school meal uptake - primary schools	73.1%	74.7%	75.1%	↓	2012/13 FY	75.8%	71.9%	66.6%
22. Free school meal uptake - secondary schools	71.1%	71.5%	71.4%	↑	2012/13 FY	88.2%	71.6%	61.7%
Voice and influence								
23. 10-17 year olds committing an offence	685	62	64	↓	Sep 12-Aug 13	134	55	17

Ofsted inspections	Leeds	Inner W			Current data period	Highest	Average	Lowest
		Current reporting period	Previous reporting period	Direction of travel				
24. Percentage of primary schools good or better	81%	80%	80%	↔	31 Dec 2013	93%	81%	68%
25. Percentage of secondary schools good or better	61%	50%	50%	↔	31 Dec 2013	75%	60%	25%
26. Percentage of children's centres good or better	79%	100%	100%	↔	31 Dec 2013	100%	86%	57%
27. Percentage of children's homes good or better	100%	100%	100%	↔	31 Dec 2013	100%	100%	100%
Ofsted judgement - Inner West	Current period: 31 Dec 2013				Previous period: 31 July 2013			
	Outstanding	Good	Req imp	Inadequate	Outstanding	Good	Satisfactory	Inadequate
28. Primary schools	1	11	3	0	1	11	3	0
29. Secondary schools	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
30. SILCs (citywide)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
31. Pupil referral units (citywide)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
32. Children's centres	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0
33. Children's homes	0	3	0	0	0	3	0	0
Secondary schools	Current period		Previous period		Direction of travel			
	Ofsted	Attendance	Ofsted	Attendance	Ofsted	Attendance		
Leeds West Academy	2	93.3%	2	93.2%	↔	↑		
Swallow Hill Community College	3	89.0%	3	89.2%	↔	↓		

Key: AY - academic year FY - financial year HT - half term ... data below five (suppressed for confidentiality) - data not available; Frameworki report development required/underway

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

Appendix three: Families First cohort

This table shows families worked with and the percentage against whom PBR has been claimed. Data are by cluster, which have been aligned to area committees. Where a cluster straddles two area committees, the proportion of the population in each cluster is shown.

Cluster	Total households	% claimed PBR	Primary area committee	% of popn in area committee	Secondary area committee	% of popn in area committee
CHESS	40	65	Inner East	72.5	Inner North East	27.5
Inner East	145	63	Inner East	100.0	-	-
NEXT	26	81	Inner North East	100.0	-	-
NETWORKS	20	55	Inner North East	100.0	-	-
ESNW	18	61	Inner North West	51.1	Outer North West	48.9
Inner NW Hub	58	52	Inner North West	100.0	-	-
OPEN XS	20	55	Inner North West	100.0	-	-
Beeston, Cottingley and Middleton	49	65	Inner South	91.9	Outer South	8.1
JESS	81	65	Inner South	100.0	-	-
ACES	36	56	Inner West	54.2	Outer West	45.8
Bramley	54	57	Inner West	100.0	-	-
Brigshaw	8	75	Outer East	100.0	-	-
Garforth	4	100	Outer East	91.3	Outer North East	8.7
Seacroft Manston	112	47	Outer East	52.3	Inner East	47.7
Templenewsam Halton	36	69	Outer East	87.0	Inner East	13.0
Alwoodley	18	78	Outer North East	79.5	Inner North East	20.5
EPOS	6	83	Outer North East	100.0	-	-
Aireborough	23	57	Outer North West	100.0	-	-
Horsforth	10	50	Outer North West	100.0	-	-
Otley/Pool/Bramhope	6	50	Outer North West	100.0	-	-
Ardsley & Tingley	10	80	Outer South	100.0	-	-
Morley	27	52	Outer South	100.0	-	-
Rothwell	21	62	Outer South	100.0	-	-
Farnley	30	63	Outer West	91.2	Inner West	8.8
Pudsey	31	55	Outer West	96.2	Inner West	3.8