

Report of: Nigel Richardson, Director Children's Services

Report to: Outer North East Community Committee – Alwoodley, Harewood & Wetherby Wards

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To note

Children's Services Update Report

Purpose of report

1. This report provides the Outer North East Community Committee with an update on activity and progress of Children's Service's against the Children and Young People's Plan and an overview of some of the key activities and issues in the area.

Main issues

1. Appendix 1 provides a summary of data relating to the Children and Young Peoples Plan. Key headlines from the data show that the area has the lowest share of children on child protection plans.
2. 74.5 % of 5 year olds living in the Outer North East reached a good level of development which is significantly above the city average of 61.7%.
3. 71.7% of year 11's gained 5 or more GCSE's at A*- C including English and Maths. 100% of primary schools and 74% of secondary schools are rated good or better by Ofsted.
4. School Attendance remains high, although slightly down on the previous year it is still significantly above the city averages. Persistent absence is lower than any other community committee.
5. Clusters are the predominant structure for the delivery of non "specialist" services for children and young people in the city. The Outer North East incorporates the EPOSS cluster and part of the ARM (Alwoodley and Roundhay). Clusters began life as extended services for Leeds schools and have grown to engage a range of partners

who provide early help, early intervention and prevention services for children, young people and families.

6. The Leeds citywide cluster model is a unique partnership approach for supporting vulnerable children and families. It has citywide endorsement and nationally from the Leeds Ofsted 2015 Report, which stated that the cluster model is **“effective at identifying needs and offering timely early help to pupils”, “helping to drive improvements in all pupils’ attendance”** and that through the cluster model **“there are extensive early and targeted help services available to families at the first emergence of a problem, delivered by knowledgeable, confident and well-trained practitioners.”**
7. Since 2012, cluster funding has included an annual £5.2m top slice investment by Schools Forum of the dedicated schools grant. The government is introducing new funding regulations from April 2017 so 2016/17 will be the last year that Schools Forum can top slice funding to clusters. After this it is expected that this additional funding will go directly back into school budgets.
8. Discussions are now taking place with School Governing Bodies to encourage them to re-invest in their cluster in order to sustain the work that is taking place.
9. Appendix 2 and 3 provide the Community Committee with a summary of the type of activity that is delivered via both the EPOSS and ARM clusters.

Conclusion

10. The EPOSS and ARM Clusters are the main structures around which services for children and families are provided in the Outer North East Community Committee area.
11. Changes to the funding formula in 2017/18 presents a risk that mean that the Cluster(s) become unsustainable in their current form which will have a significant impact on non-statutory services.
12. School Governing Bodies are crucial to ensuring the continuity of the Clusters by agreeing to pay back into the Cluster.

Recommendations

13. That Members who also sit on School Governing Bodies are asked to support the ongoing funding of Clusters from 2017 and beyond.
14. That Members welcome the breadth and type of activity delivered through the Clusters.