



Report of the Director of Children's Service

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 14th February 2008

Subject: Children's Services and the Children and Young People's Plan: Update (3rd Report)

Electoral Wards Affected: All

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Background

- 1.1 As set out in its 2007-08 work plan, over the course of the year the Children's Services Scrutiny Board receives regular update reports providing an overview of some key developments in children's services and details of progress against specific priorities in the Children and Young People's Plan (CYP Plan).
- 1.2 The first of these reports, received in September 2007, provided a detailed update on the children's trust arrangements and a number of key developments within services. It focused on the CYP Plan priorities of: Improving the assessment and care of children in need; and reducing the proportion of vulnerable groups not in education, employment or training. The second report, received in November 2007 provided a more brief overview of developments and focused on the CYP Plan priorities of: reducing teenage conception; and enabling the engagement of parents and young learners in early years and primary schools.
- 1.3 This report again provides a brief overview of developments, taking a particularly strategic approach given the recent learning from our Annual Performance Assessment, the initial key learning from our Joint Areas Review Inspection and a variety of other performance monitoring work, such as the 6 month children's services progress review presented to the December Executive Board. It again focuses on two specific CYP Plan priorities, which are:
- Reducing bullying
 - Improving services for children, young people and families with additional mental health needs
- 1.4 It is important to note from the outset that work on child and adult mental health services (CAMHS) is primarily within the remit of the Health and Adult Social Care

Scrutiny Board and that scrutiny work in this area would therefore be led by that Board. However, providing an overview to the Children's Services Scrutiny Board contributes to providing a full picture of the work being done across services to address our CYP Plan priorities

- 1.5 This report complements the quarter three performance report also being presented to the Children's Services Scrutiny Board, which includes specific information about performance against the Children and Young People's Plan Priorities. A full table of the priorities is included at appendix 1.

2.0 Update on the Children's Trust Arrangements

- 2.1 Between the last update report to Scrutiny and this one a wide variety of activity has taken place across the children's trust arrangements. The Open Forum event for parents discussed in the November report took place successfully and received positive feedback. More recently, the first Open Forum event of 2008 was held at the end of January, at which over 140 people attended. This event was used to both share initial learning from the recent inspections and performance assessment that have taken place and to look ahead to the work on refining the 2008 Children and Young People's Plan and the more significant review of the Plan for 2009, taking into account the DCSF's Children's Plan, the Leeds Strategic Plan and key local developments. More details of this process are discussed later in this report.

The Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board (ISCB)

- 2.2 The integrated strategic commissioning board has met on a number of occasions since the last update to scrutiny. It has been particularly heavily involved in budget planning work for 2008/09, utilizing its capacity to bring senior leaders from partners across children's services in Leeds together to agree a co-ordinated approach to budget issues.
- 2.3 Other issues that the Board have taken forward recently include performance management, through a detailed quarter 2 performance update across children's services work. The Board has highlighted a small number of priority areas it will particularly concentrate attention on to ensure collective focus. The Board has agreed a commissioning strategy to support improved integration of children's service work, which will be followed up with a commissioning plan in April 2008. The Board has also looked at the issue of workforce development and the future provision of the budget holding lead professional role. The ownership and awareness of these issues amongst senior leaders that the ISCB fosters continues to add significant value in terms of moving them forward.

An Example of ISCB's Impact – Development of the Market Place

- 2.4 One of the issues that ISCB was recently updated on and where its progress so far and potential for future impact is demonstrated is around the 'Market Place' facility for young people in the city. The Market Place is an independent voluntary sector charity that offers a wide range of support to young people to help them through issues and challenges they face growing up. ISCB Members have previously focused their collective attention on looking at the needs and potential of this facility (and the wider issue of city centre provision) to build on the positive work it does. On the back of this

focus, the Market Place Management Board has confirmed its intention and ability to purchase the former chest clinic building in the city centre. This means that the major strategic objective of establishing a large, quality base for work with vulnerable young people is being met. This achievement results from excellent collaborative work by commissioners, as instigated by the Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board, and by partner youth organisations within Children Leeds.

The Children Leeds Partnership

- 2.5 At its January meeting the Children Leeds Partnership received a presentation from Simon Flowers, Head Teacher of Carr Manor High School and Chair of the North East Area Management Board. Simon challenged delegates to discuss the ongoing issues around integrating the work of schools with wider children's services and a particularly strong theme to emerge was the need for rapid response when schools identify a young person with a significant need. There was broad agreement about the need to collectively focus on this rapid response approach, but recognition of the ongoing challenges around this. The key points from this discussion will be fed into those working around this agenda.
- 2.6 The Partnership also discussed teenage pregnancy, looking at the way different agencies can contribute to addressing this priority. The ideas arising from this discussion will be taken forward by the relevant officers.
- 2.7 Following the changes within the Leeds Liberal Democrat Party, Councillor Stewart Golton was selected as the new Executive Lead Member for Children's Services in December 2007 and as such Councillor Golton is now the Chair of the Children Leeds Partnership. He replaces Councillor Richard Brett who is now Deputy Leader of Leeds City Council.

The Leeds Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)

- 2.8 The Leeds Safeguarding Children Board has now agreed its business plan, which is available on the LSCB website. In addition to the ongoing formal work of the Board itself, as part of its wider activities LSCB also provides free child protection & safeguarding training to all practitioners within Leeds who work with children and young people, including the Council, Education Leeds, the Voluntary & Community Sector and private organisations.
- 2.9 This includes child protection training (3 levels from a two hour Raising Awareness session through to a two day Multi-agency Safeguarding training), as well as specialised training sessions such as Child Protection & Children with Disabilities, Child Protection and the Links with Violence Towards Women, and Safer Recruitment. It also provides access to an on-line training session which covers the Raising Awareness course - this has been accessed by over 200 people since its introduction in July 2007 including West Yorkshire Police, the Youth Offending Service and Neighbourhoods & Environments, who all have a policy to put all their appropriate staff through the training.
- 2.10 Since 2006 over 2,900 participants have accessed face to face training. A full training calendar of events has been issued for 2008 with the specialist courses running at

least 3 times and the Child protection courses running more often. Already demand is high with many courses fully booked and the need to add extra sessions is possible.

- 2.11 A training pool of approximately 40 trainers, many of whom are volunteers from partner agencies such as health, CYPSC and the Voluntary Sector support the courses.

Locality Working

- 2.12 Making progress and strengthening partnership locally continues to be a major area of attention within the children's trust arrangements, including links with area committees, to increase ownership, understanding and integration around the Children Leeds agenda. Central to this is the development of five local Children and Young People's Plans, which link to the city-wide plan, but provide a specific local focus on need and capacity. These plans feed into the wider planning and prioritisation work taking place locally through area delivery plans. Locality enablers and a variety of stakeholders are also currently focusing on developing new arrangements for bringing the Children Leeds wedge partnerships and local Area Management Boards together to rationalize and strengthen collective work around children and young people locally. More detail on a specific area of local working (the Leadership Challenge) are included below.

3.0 Progress of the Joint Preventative Commissioning Partnership

- 3.1 In both its September 2007 and November 2007 update reports the Scrutiny Board were given details of the work of the Joint Preventative Commissioning Partnership (JPCP), which reports through the ISCB and enables partners to 'pool' budgets and undertake an integrated commissioning process to secure the delivery of a 0-19 universal offer for Leeds children and young people as outlined in the Children and Young People's Plan.
- 3.2 The partnership managers involved have now developed a shared set of commissioning principles incorporated into the new Commissioning Strategy for Children's Services and a clear strategy for the joint commissioning of preventative services for children and young people aged 0 to 19 and their families. All services will be commissioned through Leeds City Council Central Procurement Unit tendering processes over the next two years commencing from April 2008. Current service users have been given clear timetables, advice and support and extensions of funding to ensure there are no breaks in service provision for children and families pending the procurement process. Particular support has been provided to the voluntary sector partners and a dedicated post to support the sector has been created within Leeds Children's Fund.
- 3.3 Pre qualification questionnaires have been developed and work is now underway on the detailed specifications for the services to be commissioned. It is a principle of the JPCP that the procurement process should:
- reflect the size and scope of the contract awarded
 - Generate efficiencies through commissioning across the partnership and
 - ensure providers have one service level agreement and monitoring requirement.

It is hoped that more partnerships will align their commissioning practice with the JPCP to secure more integrated and co-ordinated services for children and families in Leeds.

4.0 Key Performance Feedback – the APA and the Joint Area Review

The Annual Performance Assessment (APA)

4.1 The Council's Annual Performance Assessment for Children's Services was published on 30th November 2008. The assessment was across each of the five Every Child Matters themes and also on service management and capacity to improve. The APA's judgment was in line with those made when the Children and Young People's Plan was reviewed in 2007. As such Leeds was assessed as follows:

- Be Healthy – good
- Stay Safe – adequate
- Enjoy and Achieve – good
- Make a positive contribution - good
- Economic Well-being – good
- Service management – good
- Capacity to improve - good

4.2 The APA letter is attached at appendix 2. This detail was combined with wider performance information to enable a half yearly performance report to be presented to the Executive Board in December 2007, (this was complemented by a more detailed report on schools performance to the February Executive Board). The Annual Performance Assessment is also being used to inform service planning and work to refine the Children and Young People's Plan for 2008.

The Joint Area Review

4.3 The process of preparing for and then being the subject of the Joint Area Review inspection in December 2007 provided a significant learning experience right across children's services. During the inspection itself more than 120 events or meetings took place including around 40 site visits and 20 focus groups and involving between 500 and 600 people in total with many more providing background support.

4.4 At the time of writing this report the only feedback we have received is the information shared by the inspectors at the end of their on-site inspection. The detail of this is still subject to change through the Ofsted quality control process and as such it is confidential at present, but broad initial messages can be shared:

- The inspectors acknowledged the considerable energy, commitment and determination they witnessed throughout their fieldwork. They recognised the self awareness and honesty of staff and the willingness to listen and learn.
- There was also recognition of the pace of improvements in many service areas and the wider pace of change across children's services. The inspectors felt we recognize that there is still a lot to do and that there is variation across the outcomes we are dealing with.

4.5 The final report is due to be published in June 2008 (due in part to the local election purdah period). More detailed feedback will be provided to scrutiny through a formal report detailing the action plan from the JAR once the final report is published.

5.0 Significant National Developments – the Children’s Plan

5.1 On 11th December 2007 the government launched its first Children’s Plan, called ‘Building Brighter Futures’. The Children’s Plan has been developed in view of the introduction of the new Department for Children, Schools and Families and following a national consultation in 2007, which included a variety of work in Leeds.

5.2 The Plan outlines the strategic approach that the government wishes to see across children’s services work by identifying five principles that underpin it. These are:

- Government does not bring up children – parents and families do –so government needs to do more to back parents and families.
- All children have the potential to succeed and should go as far as their talents can take them.
- Children and young people need to enjoy their childhood as well as grow up prepared for adult life.
- Services need to be shaped by and responsive to children, young people and families, not designed around professional boundaries.
- It is always better to prevent failure than tackle a crisis later.

5.3 A range of targets are outlined as the ‘goals for 2020’. The Plan also identifies areas where funding is to be targeted over the next three years and where more specific policy reviews are scheduled or underway to inform more detailed strategies. Key themes within the Plan that are particularly important for planning ahead in Leeds include:

- The central role of parents and families and the impact of poverty.
- A new emphasis on enjoyment, emotional well-being and risk.
- New approaches to schools, putting them at the centre of communities
- The leadership role for Councils, through their children’s trust arrangements.
- An emphasis on commissioning.

5.4 The Plan covers a diversity of issues and is too detailed to go into a full analysis within this report, however the full report and a summary are available on the Department for Children, Schools and Families website and a more detailed report has also been submitted to the Council’s Executive Board. The Plan offers both challenges and opportunities for Leeds and will be an important influence on work to refine our Children and Young People’s Plan (discussed further below).

6.0 Local Progress

6.1 There are a wide variety of positive initiatives taking place locally across Leeds to help meet specific local challenges to improve outcomes. As this report provides a broad overview, the following highlights one specific area of development – a project of

national significance called the Leadership Challenge that the Council has proactively developed with the Improvement Development Agency (the IDeA).

The Leadership Challenge

- 6.2 An important aspect of improving outcomes involves strengthening ownership and integration of services for children and their families locally. The 'leadership challenge' is an important means to focus on this. It is a collaborative project between the Council's equality team, Children Leeds and the IDeA (on behalf of a range of leadership organisations) that concentrates attention on a specific local aspect of inequality, with a view to wider learning both in Leeds and nationally. It will do this by developing a better understanding of strategic commissioning, partnership skills and local leadership capacity.
- 6.3 Those involved in the challenge have been looking at the people, behaviours, resources and intelligence needed locally to lead improvements. It uses a network including local schools, elected members and a variety of key services to take forward the process. The work is being done in the northeast area of Leeds across several ward boundaries. Those involved have identified a specific area they want to focus on – preventative work around young people at a high risk of becoming NEET (not in education employment or training) – and will concentrate efforts around working with the families that need support in this area. In this way attention is very much on commissioning and integrating services to meet the families needs, rather than trying to 'fit' families around the services available.
- 6.4 So far, a variety of work has taken place to get 'buy in' and plan the training for and timetabling of this work. Schools are currently working with the identified families to get their permission for involvement and local schools and children's centres have identified the staff that will be involved in this work (and will receive training to support it). Work directly with the families moves to the next stage in February when a common assessment will take place to identify their specific level and nature of need for each family. From this, a multi-agency team will agree the next steps, including the identification of a lead professional to support the families. The multi-agency teams will start working with the families from March, with an assessment of progress in June.
- 6.5 This project has been highlighted because as well as the direct benefits to young people's lives that it aims to achieve, it will also provide important learning about the role and nature of local leadership and crucially local collaboration. It is an opportunity to both develop and showcase good practice in Leeds and strengthen understanding of those, including local elected members, whose involvement is crucial for improving outcomes. Should they wish, scrutiny will be kept informed of the learning from this work.
- 7.0 Looking Ahead: The Children and Young People's Plan**
- 7.1 Leeds first Children and Young People's Plan was originally written in 2006 as a three year plan for children's services in the city. A review of the Plan was conducted in 2007 to ensure the original priorities and approach remained relevant to Leeds' needs and changing context. As such the original Plan was refined where appropriate. In 2009 a fresh plan will be developed to run for 3-5 years.

- 7.2 Knowing that a major review will be needed offers an excellent opportunity to begin planning for that process now. Doing this will provide a greater opportunity to align budget and service planning with the priorities emerging for the new Plan. With this in mind the importance of preparing for this process was highlighted and discussed at the January 2008 Open Forum. Delegates were encouraged to complete, implement and review their service and financial planning between now and September 2008 so that in September those across children's services are well prepared to start contributing to a full consultation and review process for 2009. They were asked to take into account key national, city-wide and local developments in doing this (such as the Children's Plan, Strategic Plan and local Children and Young People's Plans mentioned elsewhere in this report).
- 7.3 Before that major review takes place it will be necessary to refresh the current Children and Young People's Plan for 2008/09 to make sure the existing priorities have the appropriate focus and the identify any significant areas now adequately covered at present. This 'lighter touch' refresh will take into account a range of learning and inputs, including the Joint Area Review, Annual Performance Assessment, Leeds Strategic Plan (reported separately to Scrutiny at previous meetings) performance data and crucially, local area plans. The January Open Forum was also used to launch this 'refresh' and a consultation form is to be made available on the Children Leeds website for anyone who wants to contribute. More details will be provided for Scrutiny as this work progresses.

8.0 The Children and Young People's Plan: Priorities and Progress

- 8.1 The information above briefly provides members with an update on a selection of important children's services related work and developments since the last update report to the Scrutiny Board in November 2007. This section provides a reminder of the priorities detailed in the first review of our Children of Young People's Plan and talks about the work being done around these. As discussed above it focuses on two priorities specifically in doing this:
- Reducing bullying
 - Improving services for children, young people and families with additional mental health needs

Progress

- 8.2 The performance report that accompanies this paper provides supporting information giving an overview of progress across the various Children and Young People's Plan priorities. Good progress overall is being made and we continue to address the areas where sufficient progress is not yet being made or evidenced. Below two of our priorities are discussed in more detail to enable members to explore these issues further.

9.0 Work to Reduce Bullying

- 9.1 Bullying is a particularly significant priority within Leeds Children and Young People's Plan because it is one of the issues most regularly identified by young people as a

significant concern for them. Within this context a number of linked initiatives have been developed:

Strategy Development

- 9.2 Throughout the summer of 2006 over 200 children and young people in Leeds, were consulted on the issue of bullying. They were asked why and where they think bullying happens, what the word means to them and most importantly, what they think should be done to tackle it. The DVD 'Talking Leeds 06' launched the work for the Leeds Anti Bullying Strategy. The young people involved with the DVD were asked to be involved in forming the children and young people's participation group for the anti-bullying strategy. A group of young people met regularly and discussed the outcomes from the adult strategy group, including the definition of bullying, aims and objectives of the strategy and current gaps in provision. The learning from this work was central to informing how the anti-bullying strategy developed.
- 9.3 Some of the key messages that arose from consultation with children and young people were:
- Children and young people know that if they are being bullied the right thing to do is to tell someone.
 - They often felt that the people they tell, including adults and children, aren't fully equipped with the skills and/or knowledge to deal with the situation.
 - It was also felt that there aren't enough schools practising positive strategies to prevent bullying happening in the first place.
- 9.4 Various work is in place to focus on these and other areas relating to bullying.

Activities

- 9.5 To respond to the need to make people better equipped to address bullying when they learn about it, anti-bullying training for staff is being provided by the Regional Co-ordinator for the Anti-Bullying Alliance, John Stead. Three courses have run to date with more planned for 2008/09.
- 9.6 In addition, an Anti-Bullying Information Day attracted 150 children, young people and adults to the Headingley Experience to take part in specialised anti-bullying workshops. These included cyberbullying, practising immediate responses, restorative justice, introduction to peer support and positive breaktimes. Speakers included: John Stead, Anti-Bullying Alliance and NSPCC Education Adviser, Chris Edwards, Education Leeds, Mariana Pexton, Children's Services and Barrie McDermott, ex Leeds Rhinos, who spoke about his personal experience of bullying.

Launching the Strategy: The Power of Me – a city-wide anti-bullying campaign for Leeds

- 9.7 During anti-bullying week 2007, the city-wide anti-bullying campaign for Leeds launched the anti-bullying strategy, using the theme of 'The Power of Me'. The campaign appeared on buses city-wide and posters, postcards and sticker sheets were distributed to schools, libraries, leisure centres and youth groups. The campaign

communicated a positive message, that we all have the power to tackle bullying and prevent it from happening.

Young people's ongoing involvement

- 9.8 A key factor in the development of the strategy was the successful involvement of young people in the decision making process. We are now working in partnership with the Project, West Yorkshire Youth Association to develop ways in which young people can be part of the ongoing role out and development of the strategy, for example...
- 9.9 *The Anti-bullying Ambassadors Programme* – The aim of this programme is to pilot a participation programme within 10 high schools, training and enabling young people to actively support and raise awareness of the Anti-bullying Strategy. They will promote the existing work being undertaken by their school and through networking with other schools explore new ideas to feedback to their school council and their wider school community.
- 9.10 Each participating school is invited to send two members of yr8 and two members of yr10 to join the programme. Participants will attend four training and networking meetings during this academic year, which will be facilitated by Hilary Farmery of Education Leeds and the Project, with guest speakers where appropriate.

Widening Ownership - The Anti-Bullying Pilot

- 9.11 During the academic year 07/08, Ralph Thoresby school and five of its feeder primary schools are taking part in an anti-bullying pilot. The objective of this pilot is to measure and evaluate positive anti-bullying intervention strategies. This pilot illustrates how partnerships can work together. Ralph Thoresby have had peer support training from ChildLine, West Yorkshire Police and the Youth Offending Service have delivered restorative justice to the SMT. Leeds Rugby Foundation will launch a positive breaktime activities program in spring and a group of year seven students have benefited from performing in 'Mission Transition' a musical production on the change between primary and high school. This was performed back in the student's old primary schools. The primary schools, together with Ralph Thoresby, are engaging with a community arts project with ArtForms on how to stay safe and will receive ChildLine training for peer supporters in the summer term.

Successes and Next Steps

- 9.12 So far over 1,250 children and young people from 50 schools have engaged with anti-bullying activities since the beginning of the strategy development. There has clearly been some success, but bullying remains and a key concern for children and young people and as such an ongoing, integrated focus of resources and expertise will be needed to build on the good work described above.
- 10.0 ***Improving services for children, young people and families with additional mental health needs***
- 10.1 Young people's mental health is increasingly being recognized by the government as an area of significant importance in terms of the overall quality of life that young

people experience and their success in other areas, such as academic achievement. In Leeds, national prevalence rates indicate that around 15,000 children under the age of 18 will have significant emotional health/ mental health difficulties. (Currently only about 3500 referrals a year can be accepted by Child and Adult Mental Health Services). Both the numbers affected, and the links between emotional health and other areas of children's lives, have made it a priority area in the Children and Young People's Plan.

Some background information

- 10.2 There are two meanings to the term "CAMHS" The first meaning covers all emotional health services ("comprehensive CAMHS") and is used to describe the broad spectrum of all emotional health services ranging from the universal to highly specialist. The other meaning of "CAMHS" is used to describe those services which focus exclusively on addressing emotional /mental health problems, and advising others on promoting emotional well being. Both meanings are discussed below, using the terms "emotional health" and "CAMHS" to make the distinction where appropriate.
- 10.3 Supporting children and adolescents to maintain emotional health is the responsibility of everyone involved in a child's life – from parents, family members and carers, to professionals within voluntary and statutory organisations. For the vast majority of young people their emotional well being needs will be met without any contact with CAMHS services.
- 10.4 Promoting emotional health can, and does, promote resilience and reduce the chances of experiencing emotional health problems. However it is important to note that rates of emotional/mental health problems clearly differ according to the types of environment in which children live. Children in some situations (i.e. those looked after, those with learning difficulties) are much more likely to experience such difficulties.

CAMHS service in Leeds

- 10.5 CAMHS services are principally provided by PCT Care Services - in health care settings. Services are also delivered by other providers including Children's Social Care, in a range of social care, education and voluntary sector settings.
- 10.6 The following types of condition are managed by CAMHS services:
- autism, attachment difficulties, Conduct disorders, depression, eating disorders, emotional disorders, habit disorders, hyperkinetic disorders (ADHD), parenting work, psychosis, and self harm. The two largest categories of referral are emotional problems, and conduct disorders.
- 10.7 The main types of intervention are: brief solution focused interventions, cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT), family therapy, child psychotherapy, parenting interventions, play therapy, creative therapies, group work and medication.
- 10.8 Short term interventions consist of up to three appointments including an initial assessment. These are offered by CAMHS locality teams. About a third of children and young people require longer term interventions. These may last for a few weeks through to years and are again offered by locality teams.

- 10.9 Specialist teams operate in specific settings providing a range of services suited to their particular client group: Examples are: CAMHS staff in BEST Teams. Paediatric Psychology in the hospitals, The Market Place – a voluntary organisation, Therapeutic Social Work Team in Social care, Youth Offending CAMHS staff, and Wetherby Youth Offending Institution CAMHS team.

Current Strengths

- 10.10 Leeds has just completed an Emotional Health Strategy. This covers the whole spectrum of emotional health services – from health promotion, through early intervention, to specialist services. It will serve to re-enforce that emotional health is “everybody’s business”, and will clarify referral routes, and what should be dealt with at what level. One of the key areas for action is to develop the expertise of staff working in generic children’s services settings so that they are better equipped to address emotional health problems.
- 10.11 There are a growing range of emotional health promotion services across most agencies. Schools, especially, have seen a significant expansion of services (e.g. SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects to learning) training being rolled out to staff in schools. Also, the Waved approach in schools (www.leedsehwb.org.uk) sets out the range of services those contribute to emotional health.
- 10.12 Leeds has also recently become one of the Pilots for Multi Systemic Therapy (MST) - working with children and their families at risk of becoming looked after or going into custody, as well as being one of 25 sites nationally to pilot a DCSF initiative around enhancing mental health capacity in a small number of clusters of schools

Opportunities for Improvement and Development in the Future

- 10.13 Outcome measurement - Leeds CAMHS has pioneered measuring outcomes in the CAMHS service and this work will be developed in the light of the Central Government focus on outcomes, rather than outputs. An overall emotional health indicator is being developed by the DCSF nationally and this will enable Leeds to track this dimension across its whole child population.
- 10.14 Waiting times have been too long for CAMHS services. Two years ago more than 300 children were waiting more than 13 weeks for services. Currently 40 are waiting for initial interventions for more than 13 weeks, and a further 80 for follow up interventions for longer than 13 weeks. By April 09 no one will wait more than 18 weeks for initial and follow up interventions combined. (in line with NHS overall limits)
- 10.15 If fewer children and their families are going to be referred to specialist CAMHS services (to meet waiting time targets), then early intervention emotional health services in general settings will need to be developed and more generic staff trained up.
- 10.16 There also remains a lack of clarity as to when referral to CAMHS is appropriate, and frustration that most referrals need to come through a GP. This will change, and most referrals will in future come as a result of a CAF (Common Assessment Framework).

Strengthening Commissioning

- 10.17 The commissioning of emotional health services is to be strengthened by the development of an Emotional Health Commissioning Executive. This will both commission CAMHS services, as well as influence the development of emotional health aspects to services in universal children's services (such as education, early years and youth services.)
- 10.18 Balancing two different areas of need will be a key task. Firstly, to ensure that the emotional health needs of vulnerable groups are clearly articulated, and resources diverted to meeting them if necessary. Secondly, to ensure that early intervention services are in place to ensure that difficulties are tackled when they are still manageable. This is particularly important in Early Years services – in the light of the increasing research around the emotional health needs of this group, and their parents /carers.

Looking Ahead

- 10.19 Emotional health services now have a much higher priority – nationally and in Leeds. There are two overriding priorities:
- to ensure limited resources are allocated across the spectrum of services (so that neither early intervention services nor service targeted at vulnerable groups are neglected.)
 - to ensure that all children's services staff have a better awareness of emotional health issues, and are better equipped to address less complex difficulties.
- 10.20 CAMHS was one of the key lines of inquiry focused on in particular detail by the inspectors during the Joint Area Review. The learning from this will complement the awareness and initiatives discussed above to help us continue to improve the support we provide in this key area for children and young people.

11.0 Conclusions

- 11.1 This report has provided a further update on some key areas of progress across children's services and in particular on work around two priorities in Leeds Children and Young People's Plan. Taken together with the other performance information presented to Members and the other update reports over the course of the year, the scrutiny board will receive a broad overview of the full range of priorities and the initiatives in place to address these. The report reflects the range of progress made, but also the challenges remaining and the opportunities to continue addressing these through learning from recent activities and the review of the Children and Young People's Plan.

12.0 Recommendations

- 12.1 It is recommended that members note and comment on the content of this report and identify any areas where further information would be helpful.

Appendix 1

LEEDS CYP PLAN PRIORITIES

Our review has highlighted the need to be clearer about priorities to ensure there is better collective understanding, ownership and action on the issues that count. The revised list of priorities refreshes and clarifies that set out in the full Children & Young People’s Plan last year and is intended to form a relatively stable set of priorities. It describes a number of longer term very broad priorities and feeding into each of these a more targeted shorter term priority. It also specifically addresses the cross-cutting ‘narrowing the gap’ theme. This long term/short term approach is important because it shows how we can have an immediate impact on outcomes and at the same time invest in developments for the longer term.

The list is set out below, grouped into two sections: the first for improving outcomes and the second for improving services.

Every Child Matters Outcome	Priority	Long term priority	Short term priority
Stay safe	Safeguarding	Embedding a safeguarding culture	Improving the assessment and care of children in need
	Safe communities	Strengthening community safety and cohesion	Reducing bullying
Be healthy	Emotional wellbeing	Promoting emotional wellbeing for all	Improving services for children, young people and families with additional mental health needs
	Activity and obesity	Reducing obesity	Raising activity
	Sexual health	Improving sexual health for all	Reducing teenage conception
Enjoy and achieve	Secondary progress	Improving educational outcomes for 11-16 year olds	Targeting underachievement
	Early learning	Improving readiness to learn	Enabling the engagement of parents and young learners in early years and primary schools
Make a positive contribution	Positive opportunities	Enhancing positive opportunities in and out of school	Reducing antisocial behaviour and offending
Achieve economic wellbeing	Qualifications and skills at 19	Raising qualifications and skills levels for 19 year olds	Reducing the proportion of vulnerable groups not in education, training or employment
ALL	Narrowing the gap in outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people		

Priorities for Improving Services

Every Child Matters Outcome	Long term priority	Short term priority
Service management	Extended services for every neighbourhood	Roll out of extended services in schools and children's centres
Service management	Parenting support for all	Proactive, tailored support for families facing the most severe challenges
Service management	Personalised, joined up support for all	Moving towards integration through the roll out of the Common Assessment Framework, Budget Holding Lead Professional and Individual learning plans

