

## Report of Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support

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

**Date: 26 April 2018**

**Subject: Draft Scrutiny Inquiry Report – The Impact of Child Poverty on Achievement, Attainment and Attendance.**

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 Leeds City Council has an ambition to be the best council in the UK: fair, open, compassionate and welcoming with an economy that is both prosperous and sustainable so all of our communities are successful. The City's vision encompasses the aim to be a Child Friendly City by 2030.
- 2 In June 2017 the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) resolved to undertake an inquiry which would consider child poverty and the impact it has on the educational attainment and achievement of children and young people. The Board wanted to identify how child poverty impacted on the school day, particularly with regard to school attendance.
- 3 Terms of reference for the inquiry were agreed on the 20 July 2017 when the Scrutiny Board established that the purpose of the inquiry would be to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
  - How child poverty is defined by Leeds City Council and the Children and Young Peoples Trust Board.
  - The legislative framework and the duties on Local Authorities and other delivery partners in England to tackle child poverty, conduct a local needs assessment, and produce a child poverty strategy.

- The prevalence of child poverty in Leeds and the trend over the past 5 years to identify the scale of the challenge. The statistical data and trends that link poverty to poor achievement, attainment and attendance, and the statistical data that links poverty to vulnerable children.
  - National research about the link between poverty and educational outcomes and the steer and focus this has provided in the delivery of services for children in Leeds.
  - The strategic approach in Leeds to minimise the impact of child poverty on attainment, achievement and attendance. How this is this being driven, co-ordinated and if it is maintaining momentum. The aims, objectives and outcomes defined which will support children and young people to do well in education. The plan in place and how this is communicated, monitored and reviewed.
  - The initiatives currently in place in Leeds to build resilience and support for learning through schools and partners in areas of high deprivation.
- 4 The inquiry was conducted over five evidence gathering sessions which took place between July and December 2017, when a range of evidence both written and verbal was received. Members of the Board also visited three schools and one Cluster Partnership in November 2017 to speak to practitioners. A meeting was also attended with the LCSB Education Reference Group on the 3 October 2017.
- 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 Board's recommendations are finalised and published on the Council's website". Advice has been sought from the Director of Children and Families and the Director of Communities and Environment and is reflected in the current draft report presented to the Scrutiny Board.
- 6 A further opportunity for the provision of advice from the Officers of Leeds City Council is available at the meeting on the 26 April 2018 and the Scrutiny Board is recommended to consider this before agreeing its report.
- 7 Once the Board publishes its final report, the appropriate Director(s) will be asked to formally respond to the recommendations defined in the Scrutiny Board's report within three months.

## **Recommendations**

- 8 The Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) is recommended to consider and agree the appended report following its inquiry into The Impact of Child Poverty on Achievement, Attainment and Attendance.

## Background documents

9 None used<sup>1</sup>

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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.