

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
2	We recommend that the Director of Social Services reports back to us within three months on action that will be taken to reduce administrative delays in the adoption process	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> Recommendations for administrative support to the Fostering & Adoption Service will arise out of the full review of the service Timescale: October 2007</p> <p><u>October 2007 update</u> The timescale for the review to be completed is now January 2008. An additional temporary post has been agreed in the interim.</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> The timescale for completion of the review is now March 2008.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> In order to achieve this recommendation there is now a dedicated adoption panel co-ordinator. A new head of support services reviewed processes, streamlined administration and is working with the Electronic Social Care Record (ESCR) team to implement electronic record keeping.</p>	2 (Achieved)	✓
3	We recommend that the Director of Social Services considers whether a similar organisational approach to that taken in Liverpool would benefit adoption in Leeds, and reports back to us with a view within three months	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> This proposal will be considered as part of the full review of the service as it represents a significant change to current practice and has budgetary implications Timescale: October 2007</p> <p><u>October 2007 update</u> The timescale for the review to be completed is now January 2008.</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> The timescale for completion of the review is now March 2008.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> The Liverpool model has been considered and rejected on the basis that the benefits from that approach can be achieved by other means in Leeds. Specifically, Leeds has instead invested in 3 additional fostering officers to help shorten the timescale for assessments – a key priority for the service.</p>	2 (Achieved)	✓

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
9	We recommend that the Director of Social Services commissions appropriate activity to raise general awareness of the range of people who can adopt children and reports back to us on initiatives proposed within three months	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> Consideration will be given to increasing the recruitment budget. The current budget has not been increased for several years and is probably insufficient. The service review will report on this and make recommendations. Timescale: April 2008</p> <p>Continue current involvement with the Adoption Consortium on raising awareness about adoption at a regional level particularly about BME children needing adoption</p> <p><u>October 2007 update</u> A regional approach to the recruitment of BME adopters and awareness raising is now taking place.</p> <p><u>July 2008 update</u> A recruitment strategy is in place to guide work on raising awareness around adoptions; this advocates work both locally and regionally.</p> <p>Further to the July 2007 position, the local recruitment budget has not been increased. However there has been greater investment in engaging with the regional consortium to raise the profile of adopting Leeds children across the region, which brings net gains for the city.</p> <p>Some specific examples of recent positive recruitment activity include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adoption week in November 2007 - Two National Adoption Register exchange days to bring agencies together to profile those needing adoption to target our efforts to where they are needed most; - A range of targeted local activity including a Beeston mailout; Chapeltown Carnival; - Extending the website to link with national adoption agencies. 	2 (Achieved)	✓

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
12	We recommend that the Director of Children's Services considers the appointment of an independent reviewing officer for adoption, and reports back to us with a view within three months	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> The manager of the Independent Reviewing Officers will consider this proposal and make recommendations. Timescale: July 2007</p> <p><u>October 2007 update</u> A review of the reviewing service is underway and the manager has been made aware of this proposal.</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> This issue is being looked at as part of the general review and restructuring of the adoption and fostering section and is not due to be complete until the end of March.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> An independent reviewing officer for adoptions has been considered, but it has not been introduced. This is based on two key factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the view from the existing team that introducing an independent reviewing officer part way through the adoption process would potentially mean losing the knowledge and continuity established through the early stages of cases. - Investment in reviewing officers has instead focused on targeting work to help improve performance against statutory key performance indicators. 	2 (Achieved)	✓

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
13	<p>We recommend that the Director of Social Services and the Chief Executive of Education Leeds produce an action plan within three months for improving the education support to adopted children, in order to ensure a more consistent quality of experience for adoptive families. This should cover awareness raising for schools; social services staff awareness of education resources; and parental awareness of education support particularly for special educational needs.</p>	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> There is a piece of work currently being undertaken to develop practice in respect of the education of looked after children. The proposals regarding the education of adopted children will be similarly considered and added to the current piece of work. Timescale: April 2008</p> <p><u>October 2007 update</u> A 'virtual headteacher' for looked after children has been appointed and will consider this as part of his brief.</p> <p><u>July 2008</u> Work to improve education support to adopted children is ongoing. At present this has not been allocated as a key responsibility of the 'virtual headteacher', enabling him to focus specifically on looked after children.</p> <p>However, work to integrate the shared responsibilities of children and young people's social care with schools is developing, resulting in better mutual understanding and more targeted support to those young people with particular needs, including adopted children.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - support staff regularly go into schools to observe, plan and provide training for the school in relation to individual children - Theraplay is used in schools - mentoring programme for looked after children successfully used with an excluded adopted child - annual multi-agency training (including CAMHS) is offered free to schools - ongoing support for adoptive parents from Education Support Worker 	<p>2 (Achieved)</p>	<p>✓</p>

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
3	<p>That the Director of Children's Services has regard to this report when responding to any school consulting on becoming a Trust School.</p> <p>In particular the points raised in this report regarding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • proposed partner organisations sharing the same vision for the school • any proposed changes to the school's admissions policy • potential for the proposals to help or hinder "narrowing the gap" • balance of trust appointed governors on the governing body <p>and to consider how the individual proposals will contribute to community cohesion and delivering the Every Child Matters agenda.</p>	<p><u>October 2007 position</u> Commitment given</p> <p>No further formal proposals received to date</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u></p> <p>All of the points highlighted by scrutiny are now incorporated into guidance used by Education Leeds in relation to trust schools. These points have also helped to inform the protocol in relation to Academies.</p> <p>Since the formal consultations on the Schools' Partnership Trust in Garforth, no further formal consultations have been held. However, groups of schools in Otley, Morley, Wetherby, Pudsey and Boston Spa have had informal conversations with Education Leeds. More formal responses to the considerations scrutiny has highlighted would be sought during any formal consultation.</p>	2 (Achieved)	✓

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
1	<p>In light of the evidence presented during our inquiry, we recommend that the youth offer for Leeds needs to address the following key findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for a more equal distribution of universal youth services on offer across the city • The need to include advice and signposting within universal provision • The need to recognise that some groups of young people (for example carers, looked after children and young people with disabilities) may need a different approach or extra assistance to enable them to access the types of opportunities included in the universal youth offer • The need to recognise young people's expressed desires for venues and spaces to undertake their own (unstructured) activity • The important role of inter-generational/all age activities as well as specific young people's activities <p>We ask the Director of Children's Services to report to us within 3 months on how each of these issues will be addressed in the published youth offer.</p>	<p><u>January 2008 update</u> 972 young people were consulted during the summer about the contents of the draft youth offer. The results led to the production, by the Youth Council and ROAR, of an excellent DVD introducing the Breeze Youth Promise. The consultation highlighted the need to change some elements of the youth offer. This is being done at present, meaning that the Breeze Youth Promise can be finalised by the end of March. Leeds is recognised nationally as being the most advanced authority in the country regarding the youth offer.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> Updates have previously been provided around work on the specific elements of this recommendation.</p> <p>The Breeze Youth Promise is now finalised and is awaiting imminent sign-off from the Leeds Youth Council. It addresses points covered in this recommendation. It will be officially launched following this sign-off and a communications strategy will be agreed by young people to share it across the city.</p> <p>Approximately 30 young people have sustained involvement in this development, and a group has been formed which will be responsible over the longer term for the Breeze Youth Promise.</p>	<p>4 or 5 (not achieved)</p> <p>Board to determine whether progress is acceptable</p>	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
6	That the Director of Children's Services finds ways of promoting positive relationships between the police and youth services more widely, building on the good examples that exist in some parts of the city.	<p><u>October 2007 position</u> The position remains that there are good local examples but no strategic discussions have as yet taken place. This would be a useful starting point and will be followed up.</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> This will be followed up once the Integrated Youth Support Service is in operation.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> Progress on this work has been good. There is a range of positive work and relationships taking place, with a good referral system from the police to the 'Positive Activities for Young People' scheme.</p>	2 (Achieved)	✓
7	We recommend that the Director of Children's Services ensures that, in addition to existing consultation with service users, specific efforts are made to consult with non service users about their views on the Youth Service.	<p><u>October 2007 position</u> The Youth Service will be conducting its second annual user survey in October 2007. This is specifically designed to assess customer feedback and satisfaction ratings. Extensive public consultation with young people about the youth offer has been taking place during the summer as part of Breeze on Tour.</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> The annual user survey will now take place in February 2008.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> Reports from the user survey and a focus group with non service users have been circulated to members of the Scrutiny Board.</p>	2 (Achieved)	✓

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
2	That costs for departmental publications 2006/2007 be supplied to a future meeting of Scrutiny Board (Children's Services), to establish a baseline figure for departmental publications produced by Education Leeds for comparison with future years.	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> Comprehensive costs for 2006/07 not available Costs for 2007/08 being monitored Scrutiny Board agreed to this as an alternative. Review at end of 2007/08 financial year</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> The figure is £124,572 and this is the baseline to be used.</p>	2 (Achieved)	✓
3	That the Director of Children's Services obtain costs for publications relating to Children's Services 2006/2007 from Council Departments and external partners, where available, to supply to a future meeting of Scrutiny Board (Children's Services).	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> Response indicated amount of work required to achieve recommendation. Board agreed that information would be sought from council departments only in the first place, for 2007/08 Review at end of 2007/08 financial year</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> The figure across children's services excluding Education Leeds is £231,333. This is the baseline to be used. This includes: Breeze, The Project and Family Hub spending. Also Youth Services and Children and Young People's Social Care and cross-service publications/resources such as those relating to the Children and Young People's Plan and the Participation Strategy.</p>	2 (Achieved)	✓

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
1	That First Bus review its fare structure so that the fare paid better matches the distance travelled. That First Bus review its fare structure in the light of the forum's findings on the barrier cost represents to young people. And, that First Bus report its conclusions/intentions to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) in July 2007.	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> First has agreed to re-examine this issue when fares are next reviewed, although the scope for change may be limited.</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> The issue will be raised when the young people attend Metro's 'Operator meeting' on 4th March.</p> <p><u>July 2008 update</u> This was raised by young people at the Metro 'Operator Group' meeting on 13th May. The reasons for the current fare structure have been explained by First Bus.</p>	1 (Stop monitoring)	✓
2	That Metro should investigate the possibility of developing a concessionary scheme whereby young people pay for the first few journeys in the usual way and then get one/two free (buy four, get one free for example but avoiding the need to pay up front) and report their findings/actions to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) in July 2007.	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> Metro has agreed to consider this approach.</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> This type of scheme is conditional on the introduction of smart cards. Metro will keep the Scrutiny Forum informed of progress in this area.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> Operators have agreed to a 'get around for a pound' promotion over the summer holiday, entitling all young people (11-16) with a half fare pass to a £1 ticket. Other work to take this forward is still ongoing.</p>	3, 4 or 5 (not achieved) Board to determine whether progress is acceptable	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
4	That Metro reviews the effectiveness of its marketing strategies with regard to young people's concessionary schemes and report its progress to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) in July 2007.	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> Metro has offered to work with the Director of Children's Services on this issue.</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> Some progress has been made in this area. Metro now provide information to young people at key times in their lives eg. Age 11 and 16. A new website, www.generationm.co.uk has been launched and is proving successful.</p> <p><u>July 2008 update</u> Metro are continuing to develop their 'generation M' website, and are hoping to expand it to cover post-16 education as well as schools.</p>	2 (Achieved)	✓
5	That Metro develop a text messaging comments and complaints system, promote this amongst young people and report progress to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) in July 2007.	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> Metro will consider this further following the launch of their young people's website</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> The website has now been launched and complaints/comments can be submitted by email. Metro are still considering the possibility of introducing a text message system at some point in the future.</p> <p><u>July 2008 update</u> Metro has requested a quote for setting up and running a text messaging service.</p>	4 or 5 (Not achieved) Board to determine whether progress is acceptable	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
8	That the Director of Children's Services investigates adding travel concessions to the other benefits of the Breeze card and reports back to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) in July 2007.	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> There are some technical issues that need to be addressed. Metro and Leeds City Council have agreed to closer joint working on publicity, events and discounts.</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> Investigations into this are ongoing. This scheme will also depend on the introduction of a smart card. Metro will keep the Scrutiny Forum informed of progress in this area.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> See recommendation 2. Operators have agreed to a 'get around for a pound' promotion over the summer holiday, entitling all young people (11-16) with a half fare pass to a £1 ticket. Other work to take this forward is still ongoing.</p>	<p>3, 4 or 5 (not achieved)</p> <p>Board to determine whether progress is acceptable</p>	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
9	That the Director of Children's Services orders a review of how school transport monies are being spent in Leeds to see if there is a better way in which it could be spent and reports back to Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) in July 2007.	<p><u>July 2007 position</u> A review is taking place. Metro is developing a pathfinder bid for November 2007.</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> The School Transport Team within Education Leeds are involved in an ongoing review of transport costs and implications. This is set within the context of the statutory obligations that must be met under government legislation. The team has been liaising closely with Metro as part of this work, with a strong emphasis on taking forward the recommendations from the scrutiny review, particularly using the Breeze card to widen access to bus transport. Ongoing updates on this progress can be provided.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> A report will be submitted shortly to Executive Board prior to consultation during the autumn term on proposed changes to the Home to School Transport policy to take effect from September 2009. Part of the proposals are likely to incorporate amendments to the policy for support for children with additional transport needs (for example children with special educational needs) to reflect improved coordination between the policies previously administered separately by Education Leeds and Children and Young People's Social Care.</p>	<p>4 or 5 (not achieved)</p> <p>Board to determine whether progress is acceptable</p>	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
1	<p>That Education Leeds should always show a full analysis of the factors it has taken into consideration in its projections of demand for pupil places, and that it reports back to the Scrutiny Board within 3 months as to how this will be achieved, using Fountain Primary School as a particular example to demonstrate this.</p>	<p><u>February 2008 position</u> In addition to utilising the existing systems which have proved to be robust during the closure and opening of almost 80 schools Education Leeds will develop a transparent system for reporting the demographic planning risks associated with a proposed school reorganisation. This could include for example the number of schools involved, their location in the city, the past reliability of projections in the area etc.</p> <p>An officer within the school organisation team has been identified to progress this work. The system for assessing risk will be reported to Scrutiny at its June meeting.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> To ensure a full, clear explanation is shown, Education Leeds is reviewing the information/explanation it uses to support its methodology.</p> <p>The revised information will be used for the updated pupil projections for schools, currently being completed by the School Organisation Team and due to be available on-line in the next two months.</p>	<p>4 or 5 (not achieved)</p> <p>Board to determine whether progress is acceptable</p>	
3	<p>That the Fountain Primary School building project be given priority and sufficient funding by Education Leeds and the Council.</p> <p>That a progress report relating to this project is reported back to Scrutiny within 3 months.</p>	<p><u>February 2008 position</u> Education Leeds, through its representation to Asset Management Group, has secured approval to access a capital receipt to be generated for the disposal of the current Fountain Infants Building. The receipt will be supplemented with an allocation from the Education Leeds Capital Programme and will provide the funding to extend the main building and bring the school onto one site. The scheme is currently in design and will be the subject of an Authority to Spend report to the Executive Board in March or April 2008.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> The proposals were agreed by the Executive Board in March 2008.</p>	<p>2 (Achieved)</p>	✓

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
9	That the Governing Body of Fountain Primary School enters into early budgetary discussions with Education Leeds to review the school's current position so that any necessary further readjustments to class organisation and staffing structures are carried out with the least amount of disruption possible.	<p><u>February 2008 position</u></p> <p>Support continues to be provided through the school's link finance, HR, Team Leader of Financial Services and school improvement advisors. Detailed plans for managing staffing reductions are implemented and an acceptable revised financial recovery plan produced by the governing body.</p> <p>3 school visits by finance officer since 13/12/2007. 2 school visits by HR adviser since 14/12/2007 with 2 further visits planned during MSR process. 0 school visits by school improvement adviser. Meeting convened in December involving senior manager of Education Leeds, school representatives, and relevant elected members to consider full range of actions available to governors and appropriateness of support from Education Leeds.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u></p> <p>There is ongoing work with the school. Staffing reductions are achieved through to September 2009 without disruption to the work of the school.</p>	2 (Achieved)	✓