

**Report of the Chief Officer, Development. Director of Children's Services Unit**

**Area Committee - Inner West**

**Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006**

**Subject: Every Child Matters – The West Area Project.**

<p><b>Electoral Wards Affected:</b></p>	<p><b>Specific Implications For:</b></p> <p>Ethnic minorities <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Women <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Disabled people <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Narrowing the Gap <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>Council Function <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function available for Call In <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report <input type="checkbox"/></p>

**Executive Summary**

This brief report outlines for the Area Committee details of a presentation which will be made on the current progress on delivering the change for children agenda in west Leeds, its links to the developments in the Director of Children's Services Unit and the review of the local partnership arrangements for children's services under the auspices of Children Leeds.

The Area Committee are asked to note the details of the presentation, comment on any aspects and discuss how effective links can be made to the children's agenda in west Leeds.

**1.0 Background and Context**

- 1.1 Since 2003 the government has been outlining its Every Child Matters agenda. This seeks a new approach for:
- delivering services to children, young people and families
  - improving the way that organizations and professionals work together to support children and their families.
- 1.2 The government published the "**Every Child Matters: Changes for Children**" green paper in 2003 as a response to Lord Laming's inquiry into the death of Victoria Climbié. He identified poor integration and communication between services and a lack of accountability as serious failings that contributed to her death. The green paper proposed that organisations that provide

services to children, young people and families work together in new ways, sharing information to protect children and young people from harm and helping them achieve what they want in life. This includes those in the public, private and voluntary sectors. The aim is for children, young people, parents and carers to be more involved in making decisions on issues that affect them.

1.3 The green paper set the national framework for local services to build better services around the needs of children, young people and families and for those services to be aimed at prevention and earlier interventions with children in need. The subsequent **Children Act 2004** provided the legislative framework for the whole system changes to services that support children, young people and families.

1.4 In Leeds the proposals for changes to children's services are being piloted in the west area and the presentation to the committee will outline details of the **West Leeds Project**, covering the following elements:

- The scope of the project
- The project team
- The project board
- Timescales
- Achievements to date
- The developments in the DCS Unit
- Outcome of the review by Children Leeds and next steps
- Links to area management
- Links to area committees
- Learning the lessons and city wide roll out.

## **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 The Area Committee are asked to note the details of the presentation, comment on any aspects and discuss how effective links can be made to the children's agenda in west Leeds.

Mariana Pexton  
Chief Officer - Development