

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
3	<p>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>	<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 adoption officers to help shorten the timescale for assessments – a key priority for the service.</p> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> To create extra capacity within the adoptions service as soon as possible, 1.5 of the posts available will be used to take on fostering work that has been covered by those responsible for adoptions. This will free up those staff to work entirely on adoptions. Half a post will be used to increase contact work and the other half a post will add to existing capacity. The process for filling these posts is currently being carried through. To stay within budget it has been necessary to reduce the 3 additional posts to 2.5.</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> In October the Board asked the Chair to monitor progress, with a view to signing off the recommendation once recruitment took place. The Chair has received a delegated decision report which is due to be considered by the Chief Officer (Children and Young People's Social Care) in January 2009, following which the posts can be filled/advertised.</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>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. 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><u>October 2008 update</u> Young people have sustained their involvement in producing the Breeze Youth Promise. They are planning a launch event for the Breeze Youth Promise before the end of the year and will be inviting Scrutiny Board members to attend.</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> The Board considered the Breeze Youth Promise in December 2008. It was agreed that the Board would work with young people to monitor delivery of the promise.</p>	<p>2 (Achieved)</p>	<p>✓</p>

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
7	<p>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>	<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> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> The next annual survey will be across IYSS instead of just Youth Service. In particular this involves extending the survey to Connexions clients. This means that the views of non Youth Service users will be captured. The results will be available by March 2009.</p>	<p>6 (Not for review this session)</p>	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
2	<p>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>	<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> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> Metro are still in the process of compiling feedback from the 'get around for a pound' promotion. However, it is hoped that the promotion will be run again next summer. They are also continuing to explore the idea of free travel for young people, and are appointing a consultant to look at the costs and benefits of this.</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> Consultants have been appointed to review the ticketing options available to young people in West Yorkshire in order to address the issues of cost and complexity of the offering that have been consistent elements of feedback to Metro. Part of this work will consider whether there is a business case for free bus travel for young people as is the case in London. The first phase of the consultants' work is close to completion and was primarily around consultation. The feedback of Leeds young people has been a part of this phase. The second phase will take different economic models for ticketing offerings in order to establish the cost but also the benefits in their widest sense of different options (e.g. access to education, training and leisure, decongestion, health impacts). The 'carnet' idea is one of the options put forward to consultants for modelling. The consultants' report will be available in early summer.</p>	<p>4 (not achieved) Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring</p>	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
5	<p>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>	<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> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> A text messaging service has not yet been established, but Metro remain committed to this and are hoping to appoint an operator shortly.</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> Metro has established that this is technically feasible in terms of sending out messages to customers, e.g. about late running buses). By inference it is also technically feasible to receive such messages – the issues that remain to be resolved are (a) ensuring that customers send in sufficient information that such feedback can be followed up, and (b) ensuring adequate staffing levels to resolve issues in a timely manner. It is believed that a pilot with a small number of young people might help to understand these issues better and the possibility of running this will be explored in the New Year.</p>	<p>4 (not achieved) Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring</p>	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
8	<p>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>	<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><u>October 2008 update</u> Metro are hoping to run the 'get around for a pound' promotion again next summer, and are exploring the idea of promoting it alongside Breeze events, to encourage young people to travel to Breeze by bus." Metro and Children's Services are continuing to explore other methods of joint working. In the long term, the introduction of a 'smartcard' which would combine Breeze and travel concessions is under consideration, and Metro see Children's Services as a key stakeholder in the development of this.</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> There is unlikely to be further progress on this recommendation until 'smartcards' are introduced. At present, funding for this is expected to be secured by 2010, with a further two years needed to implement the scheme. Once 'smartcards' are established there is no reason why they could not theoretically be linked to a Breeze-style entitlement. However, it is difficult to provide concrete details of this in view of the timescale. Metro recognise that it is important to take some steps to address this issue in the meantime. Therefore they will continue to work with Breeze to provide and promote travel concessions such as the 'Get around for a pound' scheme.</p>	<p>1 Stop monitoring</p>	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
1	<p>That Education Leeds report quarterly to the Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) on any concerns regarding schools' use of delegated SEN funding raised through the school improvement process, and how schools have responded to challenge.</p>	<p><u>July 2008 Response</u> (a) Education Leeds are developing a monitoring and accountability framework that will include value for money judgements, against pupil outcomes and organisational practice. Working in partnership with schools, a document will be produced that sets out the full range of resources available to support children with SEN, with clear guidance as to how these resources can be utilised. An improved data set for Inclusion that will include both funding and outcomes for children will enable improved support and challenge mechanisms within which judgements can be made. Timescale January 2009 <u>October 2008 update</u> The FFI framework and handbook are being re-written with a full list of guidance for schools including criteria, outcomes and procedures available on the schools info-base. The Teams are still on schedule to deliver against the agreed timescale of January 2009. In addition work is ongoing to review the mechanism and procedures that are in place for reviewing the 2,500+ reviews that take place every year. Given the number of reviews that are ongoing Education Leeds focus on year 5, 9 transition reviews and requests for changes in placements. Work is still required to ensure the consistency and quality of advice coming through from some of the learning environments. Further work is required to ensure robust accountability mechanisms are in place that ensures more effective monitoring of pupil outcomes in relation to funding available, particularly for those pupils educated in mainstream schools. This will be strengthened through planned developments in Objective 1 of LILS including the revision of the School Improvement Policy and Procedures. Further strengthening of the annual review process and procedures and work being undertaken around FFI and the service specifications are being developed for locality working. Further work around value for money will be developed to link in with DCSF and Audit Commission recommendations and guidance.</p>	<p>4 (not achieved) Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring</p>	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
		<p><u>January 2009 update</u> The FFI handbook has been rewritten and reissued to all schools and learning settings. Joint working practices involving Integrated Children's Services and School Improvement Partners are being developed to both support and challenge schools in regard to their outcomes for children with SEN/LDD. The use of The National Strategies and Audit Commission Value for Money tool kit is an integral part of the support, challenge and school self evaluation process. Education Leeds were key partners in the development of this national school improvement tool kit. The annual reviews for children with and without statements in N2 and year 6 have been completed. Progress and consequent placement decisions continue to be monitored and delivered by Special Educational Needs, Statutory Assessment and Provision Officers and colleagues from the Integrated Support and Psychology Service. This will ensure that all placements for children with SEN will be aligned with the Admissions Protocol, actioned for September 2009 and subsequently monitored. Further work on the quality of information received from schools through the Annual Review is being embedded into team processes, good practice will be shared and areas of concern addressed through the School Improvement Policy. This policy is undergoing review and will be updated by the end of March 2009.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Response</u> (b) Annual report to be prepared for the School Improvement Partnership Board and Scrutiny that highlights trends and actions taken both at an individual school level; extended school cluster; area and city level. Framework on which report will be presented to be agreed by September 2008. Timescale First annual report to be produced April 2009</p> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> There is still a need to agree a robust framework on which future judgements will be made for the annual report. Data is collected systematically at individual school level, extended service cluster, area and city level on which to form a base line.</p>		

January 2009 update

Utilising the existing data analysis and current frameworks, Funding for Inclusion protocols, School Improvement Policy, Analysis of School Improvement Advisor/Partner and OFSTED Reports as well as joint working with colleagues from the Financial Services Team, three primary schools, one Specialist Inclusive Learning Centre and two high schools that require further support and intervention have been identified. A further update on how these schools have responded to the support and intervention provided will be given in the next quarterly update to the Scrutiny Board.

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
2	<p>That Education Leeds commits to early consultation with parents and professionals on any proposals for changes in the location of specialist SEN provision.</p>	<p><u>July 2008 Response</u> (a) The development of Specialist Provision, including the SILCs is Objective 2 within LILS. An audit of current and future projections of the SEN population are informing the development of a range of provisions within localities to ensure improved pathways for children. Proposals for the development of specialist provision will be consulted on with a wide range of stakeholders including parents, young people and professionals.</p> <p>The audit is now well under way. SENSAP is working collaboratively with PMIT and Schools Organisation to ensure that the data set upon which model is based is as accurate and detailed as possible. Agreement has been reached with SILC Principals regarding the options for a future model for specialist provision. A briefing document as a precursor to a consultative document is currently being prepared. It is planned that this will be available by the end of July 2008 Timescale By December 2008. (Active informal consultation will begin October 2008.)</p> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> Informal discussions have been held with the Silc Principals and key partners over the Summer term, both through the Silc Forum and the SILC Strategy group. An extraordinary LILS Programme Board was held last week to review available data and suggested ways forward. As a result a recommendation was made that further analysis be undertaken prior to the November Board meeting when a written report would be scheduled that will inform options on which to move forward with the next stages of discussions with key Stakeholders. Whilst this will delay the start of further informal discussions to nearer the end of the Autumn term the Board agreed that this was necessary to ensure all factors have been considered in more depth.</p>	<p>4 (not achieved) Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring</p>	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
		<p><u>July 2008 Response</u> (b) A proposal will be taken to the Parenting Strategy Board early in the Autumn term that will propose establishing representative parent forums in each area of the City that can be used as a reference group for active participation and consultation of parents and carers as models emerge. The Education Leeds representative on the Parenting Strategy Board is working with parents to develop this. The Chair of the Parenting Strategy Board is on the LILS Programme Board. Timescale Proposal to Parenting Strategy Board September 2008. Groups in place for October 2008</p> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> A paper has been written for both the LILS Programme Board and the Parenting Strategy Board that highlights proposals for strengthening area based forums that will be developed as reference groups for active participation and consultation with parents and carers as models emerge. The paper has been approved by the Parenting strategy Board and once formally approved by the LILS Programme will be available on the LILS section of info-base.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Response</u> (c) Regular newsletters produced for parents that give updates, progress and opportunities to be involved from September 2008. Electronic and paper versions to be available Initial newsletter produced as part of phase 2 of the LILS. This will become a regular part of phase 3 work that starts September 2008. Regular newsletters produced with parents that give all parents in the City up-dated information, and from the Autumn term and onwards, information on info-base.</p> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> Plans are embedded within the parenting paper to address this recommendation.</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> A working group met on 8th December 2008 to consider what progress had been made to date and to recommend any further steps that should be taken to ensure that the recommendation is achieved. The working group indicated that there was a need to keep a close watch on progress with implementing this recommendation in the short term, in order to</p>		

see that commitments now being made are delivered.

A further meeting of the group has been commissioned for January 2009 to:

- monitor short term progress;
- review the next stage of plans for informing/engaging/consulting parents and professionals;
- receive and consider the further information identified in relation to the parent carer consultation activity plan.

Following the meeting on 8th December, an update on the Leeds Inclusive Learning Programme has been issued to parents and carers via the SILCs and through a range of parent support groups. This is attached as Annex 2.

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
4	<p>That Education Leeds clearly sets out the referral routes for the Oasis centres.</p>	<p><u>July 2008 Response</u> (a) Referral routes into Oasis Provision will be contained as an appendix to the Service Level Agreement.</p> <p>Entry and Exit to the Oasis provision will be linked to the threshold of need document so as to ensure it is part of the continuum of early prevention work.</p> <p>Meetings to finalise service specification are fixed for July 2008. Discussions over SLA will be finalised with AMBs during September. Timescale October 2008</p> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> This work is ongoing and will be linked in with both the final agreed Service Level agreement that will be in place for April 2009 and also built into the preferred model for behaviour on which further discussions will be held. The preferred model on which to have further discussions is scheduled to go back to the LILS programme Board in November once further analysis by categories of need is complete.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Response</u> (b) The proposed programmes on offer and assessments to be used at the centres will be embedded into the Service Level agreements along with expected outcomes for children. Timescale Part of consultation package over the Autumn term</p> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> b)This work is ongoing</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> This information was provided to the Scrutiny Board in November 2008, and has therefore been signed off.</p>	<p>2 (Achieved)</p>	<p>✓</p>

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
5	<p>That Education Leeds continues to lobby the DCSF to ensure that the establishment of future Academies, especially in Leeds, provides for funding to follow an excluded pupil.</p>	<p><u>July 2008 Response</u> (a) Education Leeds has responded to consultation from the DCSF stressing the importance of the inclusion of academies in regard to in Year Fair Access arrangements and around locally determined financial adjustments for exclusion. The DCSF has proposed that budget adjustments should apply to academies from 1 April 2009. Two options are proposed: 1. All Academies will be subject to statutory adjustment. 2. Academies will be subject to statutory adjustment and additional local adjustment if they have representation on schools forum. Further guidance will be published in autumn 2008</p> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> This work is ongoing</p> <p><u>July 2008 Response</u> (b) Arrangements in relation to future Academies and exclusions will be built into local authority memorandum of understanding from the start of the process. Education Leeds are currently consulting sponsors of proposed academies and the DCFS on the perms of such a memorandum.</p> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> This work is ongoing</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> The statutory funding adjustments on both permanent exclusion and on re-inclusion will apply to all Academies from 1st April 2009. The DCSF are to issue consultation as to the nature of the representation required on the Schools Forum in order that the additional local adjustments would also apply.</p>	<p>2 (Achieved)</p>	<p>✓</p>

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
1	<p>That the Director of Children's Services reports to us within 3 months on how the new commissioning strategies being adopted by the Children Leeds Partnership will provide a more stable funding framework for services to 8-13 year olds.</p>	<p><u>September 2008 response</u> More specific details on commissioning within Children's services in Leeds are contained in a separate report to Scrutiny on 18.09.08. The Joint Preventative Commissioning Panel has undertaken a range of commissioning around services for 8-13 year olds and further work in this area is planned - and a number of service contracts are now in the consultation, reflection and/or specification writing stage that will specifically affect those aged 8-13, these include work around:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Family support for parents with older children ○ Services for minority groups ○ Extended services and supplementary schools ○ Participation ○ Play services ○ Services for refugees and asylum seekers <p><u>January 2009 update</u> The paper submitted to the scrutiny board in September 2008 detailed how a more stable funding framework is being provided. In line with this, specific commissioning activity relating to services for 8-13 year olds is continuing through the Joint Preventative Commissioning Partnership (JPCP). For example, recent approval has been given to contracts relating to capacity building work in the voluntary sector, vulnerable accommodation and youth inclusion programmes. The JPCP is soon to evaluate bids for family support and parenting services to 8-13's, participation work with 5-13's and targeted work with BME groups.</p>		

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
3	<p>That the Director of Children's Services reports back to us within three months on how parents and families will be assisted and encouraged to access holiday activities for their children.</p>	<p><u>September 2008 response</u> Parents and families will be assisted and encouraged through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The development of a single point of information (through the Family Information Service) for accessing information, building on what is currently gathered and promoted through the Family Information Service, Extended Services and Breeze. It is the intention to be able to use the Family Information Service to bring all this information to a single point in time for the summer 2009 school holiday. ○ Active promotion of holiday activities to families through mail-outs and other 'advertising' routes. <p>Timescale summer 2009</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The developing role of the Parent Support Unit which will increasingly help to identify and then direct families who can particularly benefit from certain holiday (and other) activities. <p>Timescale ongoing</p>	<p>6 (Not for review this session)</p>	

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
5	<p>That the Director of Children's Services ensures that there is comprehensive provision of local activity programmes and directories across Leeds, and reports back to us within three months on how this will be achieved.</p>	<p><u>September 2008 response</u> This will be addressed at two levels: Citywide the Chief Officer for Early Years and Youth Services will work with partners to take an overview of programmes in place and ensure that current good practice is built on to develop a more comprehensive programme. At a local level the ongoing strengthening of partnerships and integration between different services will continue to enable a more co-ordinated approach and therefore a wider offer locally.</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> Building on the above, following the Scrutiny review, this is being achieved through extended services and the Family Hub working in a much more co-ordinated way to develop local service provision and directories for each part of the city. This is helping to focus on a better city-wide approach so that previous gaps in provision are more easily identified and more consistency is achieved. I.T. improvements to the Family Hub, coupled with this closer working mean that local service directories will be available for each part of the city in the summer holidays of 2009.</p>		
9	<p>That the Director of Children's Services commissions an in-depth review of transport, to promote more effective use of existing resources and improve children and young people's access to services, and that she reports back to us within three months on progress.</p>	<p><u>September 2008 response</u> It is agreed that an in-depth review is required, but it is not possible with the resources available in this financial year to undertake the work to scope and conduct such a review. We have however, during the last three months undertaken informal discussions with key stakeholders about opportunities to take this forward. This recommendation from scrutiny will also ensure this matter is considered a priority within the revised Children and Young People's Plan for 2009 and beyond. Meanwhile, work is progressing to look at the current availability and use of school transport so that it better supports the offer of extended services to young people.</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> The position is as above with respect to this becoming a priority within the revised Children and Young People's Plan for 2009 onwards.</p>		

	Recommendation	Where we are up to	Stage	Complete
10	<p>That the Director of Children's Services reports to us within three months on how the Children Leeds Partnership is ensuring that the core offer of universal provision is available to children across all areas of the city.</p>	<p><u>Response</u></p> <p>There are several key initiatives in place to ensure the provision of the core offer is available across the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The roll-out of phase 3 of the children's centre programme so that each ward in the city has a children's centre by 2010. • The Breeze Youth Promise and the offer this develops for young people across the city. • The ongoing development of extended services clusters in each part of the city. • The commissioning of city-wide early intervention and prevention work <p>Children Leeds partners are monitoring progress through the Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board, helping to oversee the co-ordination of these related strands of work.</p>		