



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 5 March 2009

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry – Education Standards – Entering the Education System

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the board's meeting in July, members agreed to carry out an inquiry into Education Standards, particularly in relation to those entering the education system, as one of their major pieces of work this year. A copy of the agreed terms of reference is attached as Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The first formal session of the inquiry was held in December. The second session is scheduled for this meeting. The attached report at Appendix 2 sets out the evidence requested in the terms of reference, and also additional information requested arising from the first session in December.
- 1.3 An important feature of most of the Board's major inquiries is a programme of visits, which enable Members to gain first hand experience of the services being scrutinised.
- 1.4 The following visits were organised as part of the inquiry:
- Hunslet St Mary's Primary School and Children's Centre
 - Kids Academy
 - Kids Unlimited
 - A childminder

- 1.5 The members who took part in these visits have produced notes, which will be circulated to Board members in advance of the meeting.
- 1.6 Relevant officers will be at the meeting to respond to members' questions and comments.
- 1.7 The above evidence completes the scheduled activities for the board's inquiry. The board is therefore requested to consider whether it now has sufficient information to complete its inquiry and to consider the conclusions and recommendations to be incorporated into the draft inquiry report.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The board is requested to consider the issues raised by the information provided for this session of the inquiry, and also by the visits undertaken as part of the inquiry.
- 2.2 The board is requested to consider the emerging conclusions and recommendations to be reflected in the draft report of the board's inquiry.

Background Papers

None