Recommendation	Stage	Complete
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		
April 2009 update  The Board decided in January that progress was not satisfactory, and requested a further report on the reason for the delays. This was considered by the Scrutiny Board in February 2009. The Board noted that posts had been advertised, and requested a further update in April 2009.  The Board were informed in March that interviews had taken place for the Contact officer post and a candidate had been recommended for appointment.  Only 2 applications were received for the Adoption worker posts, which were not of a standard suitable to interview. The posts are currently being re-advertised.  A Delegated Decision report to approve a number of new fostering posts will be submitted at the beginning of April. If there are not sufficient suitable applicants for the adoption posts from the current re-advertising process, then there will be an opportunity to combine with the recruitment process for these new fostering posts.	4 or 5 (not achieved)  Board to determine whether progress is acceptable	
July 2007 position 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		
October 2007 update The timescale for the review to be completed is now January 2008.		
January 2008 update The timescale for completion of the review is now March 2008.		
July 2008 Update 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.		

## Adoption in Leeds

## Report published March 2007

## Last update received April 2009

Recommendation	Stage	Complete
October 2008 update		
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.		
January 2009 update 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.		

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
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.		
	April 2009 update  Due to a range of other pressures, such as the careers company transition; other connexions services' commissioning deadlines; the Youth Work Partnership commissioning arrangements; the Insight management information system training need; and recruitment and selection issues, the timeline in relation to the user survey has by necessity been revised.	4 or 5 (not achieved) Board to	
	It is unlikely that the results will be available until August 2009, in view of these and other pressures on the Integrated Youth Support Services central support team.	determine whether progress is acceptable	
	The user survey is in the process of being developed by the new Resources Officer. The survey will go onto the council's consultation portal – Talking Point – with a link to this via the Breeze website in order to facilitate wider access and utilisation of the questionnaire.	·	
	The issue of a non-user survey is being looked at. However, this piece of work was previously commissioned via The Project, costing in excess of £2,000. At this point it is uncertain if budget availability will facilitate such a piece of work. Subject to budgetary restrictions the non-user survey will happen in June/July 2009.		
	It is hoped that making the survey available online will increase the numbers of respondents including non service users.		
	October 2007 position 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.		
	January 2008 update The annual user survey will now take place in February 2008.  July 2008 Update Reports from the user survey and a focus group with non service users have been circulated to members of the Scrutiny Board.		
	October 2008 update 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.		

Recommendation	Stage	Complet
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.		
April 2009 update  Get Around for a Pound will run again this August. Promotional materials are being developed as well as links to sites such as Breeze. Particular links are being made to the Free Swimming initiative. The consultants' work on concessions is well underway and a report should be available after Easter.	4 (not achieved) Progress made acceptable. Continue	
July 2007 position Metro has agreed to consider this approach.  January 2008 update This type of scheme is conditional on the introduction of smart cards. Metro will keep the Scrutiny Forum informed of progress in this area.  July 2008 Update 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	monitoring	
pass to a £1 ticket. Other work to take this forward is still ongoing.  October 2008 update  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.		
January 2009 update 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.		

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
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.		
	A text facility is being developed to inform parents of primary school children of late running services which may be extended to secondary school children in due course if found to be useful.  Leeds Youth Council is represented on Metro's Youth Forum which recently discussed the issue of making complaints. A free phone service, perhaps via MetroLine, was suggested as it enables complainants to communicate all information necessary to investigate the complaint fully and also to vent their frustration effectively! The feasibility of this option is under discussion.	4 (not achieved) Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring	
	July 2007 position  Metro will consider this further following the launch of their young people's website  January 2008 update  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.  July 2008 update  Metro has requested a quote for setting up and running a text messaging service.  October 2008 update  A text messaging service has not yet been established, but Metro remain committed to this and are hoping to appoint an operator shortly.  January 2009 update  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.		

Recommendation	Stage	Complete
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.		
April 2009 update  (a) Recruitment to vacant SEN Monitoring Officer posts has been completed and all posts are now filled. This capacity will enable increased pace of improvement regarding the monitoring and evaluation of outcomes for children. Through improved scrutiny of Annual Reviews, schools and settings will be challenged to demonstrate the impact of provision resulting in good outcomes for children.  Collaboration and partnership working between the Integrated Psychology and Support Service and SENSAP is targeted on supporting and challenging schools at cluster level to improve practice for children with SEN.  (b) Data on pupil outcomes has been collected and analysed as part of the annual standards report. This was tabled at the Education Leeds Board earlier this term. Further work is required to agree how reports will be presented in the future so as to give increased focus on cluster and locality data.	2 (Achieved)	•
July 2008 Response  (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		
October 2008 update  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.		

# Statement published April 2008

## Last update received April 2009

Recommendation	Stage	Complete
January 2009 update 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 though the School Improvement Policy. This policy is undergoing review and will be updated by the end of March 2009.		
July 2008 Response  (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		
October 2008 update 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.		
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	Stage	Complete
2	That Education Leeds commits to early consultation with parents and professionals on any proposals for changes in the location of specialist SEN provision.		
		2	✓
	April 2009 Update (to be read in conjunction with Parent Carer Consultation Activity Plan) The Scrutiny Board working group met again in January 2009 and welcomed the progress now being made. At the February 2009 Scrutiny Board meeting, the Board received confirmation of the appointment of a Parent Information Officer, and a revised parent carer consultation activity plan. The Board agreed to revert to quarterly monitoring of progress, with the next report due in April.	(Achieved)	
	The Parent Information Officer (PIO) is in post and located at Merrion House. She is working with colleagues in the Education Leeds Communications Team on the next phase of information to be communicated (1.1) Children's Services are currently refreshing the existing Parent Participation Group and the PIO has arranged ongoing discussions with the Parenting Commissioner in order that she is engaged with parents at the refreshed group (1.2). The Family Support and Parenting Board have been updated on 25 <sup>th</sup> February 2009 (1.3.). The PIO is working with the Parenting Unit to ascertain where the existing parenting groups are in localities and how they may be extended for formal consultation processes (1.4). Early indicators are that the CLC's will be the most suitable venues for formal consultation within the localities but further information will be sought from parents themselves (1.6). The Parent Partnership Service are to produce an action plan outlining how they may <i>impartially</i> offer support, advice and guidance to parents and carers through the formal consultation phase (1.8). A telephone number has been identified for parents and carers to make direct contact with the PIO – <b>0113 3950508</b> (1.11). The PIO has been invited to sit on the Project Group in order to provide continual progress updates for monitoring by the Programme Board (1.12). In conclusion the action plan submitted to the working group remains on target.		
	July 2008 Response  (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.  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.)		

Recommendation	Stage	Complete
October 2008 update 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.		
July 2008 Response  (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		
October 2008 update 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.		
July 2008 Response  (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.  October 2008 update  Plans are embedded within the parenting paper to address this recommendation.		
January 2009 update A working group met on 8 <sup>th</sup> 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 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;		
<ul> <li>review the next stage of plans for informing/engaging/consulting parents and professionals;</li> <li>receive and consider the further information identified in relation to the parent carer consultation activity plan.</li> <li>Following the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> 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.</li> </ul>		

Recommendation	Stage	Comple
That the Director of Children's Services reports to us within 3 months on how the new commission strategies being adopted by the Children Leeds Partnership will provide a more stable funding fram services to 8-13 year olds.		
April 2009 update  The current position is that the following services have been out to tender and are now in contract mobilisa April start they all focus on children in this age group. These contracts have an end date of 31 <sup>st</sup> March 201  • 8-13 City wide family support service focussed on super output areas 900K  • Support for supplementary schools contract value 200k  • Participation for children aged 5-16 the contract value element focused on 5-13 is 260k	,	<b>✓</b>
A contract for Refuge and Asylum seekers has been extended until 31st March 2011		
A 400k contract is currently out to tender to secure mobile play provision in each wedge of the city, this proplanned to be in place for July 2009. This provision will add value to the playbuilder capital programme that intended to provide for 22 new or substantially refurbished play sites by March 2011.		
September 2008 response More specific details on commissioning within Children's services in Leeds are contained in a separate report to Scrutiny on Joint Preventative Commissioning Panel has undertaken a range of commissioning around services for 8-13 year olds and further area is planned - and a number of service contracts are now in the consultation, reflection and/or specification writing specifically affect those aged 8-13, these include work around:  Family support for parents with older children  Services for minority groups  Extended services and supplementary schools	her work in this	
<ul> <li>Participation</li> <li>Play services</li> </ul>		
Services for refugees and asylum seekers		
<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 ioning	

Recommendation	Stage	Complet
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.		
<ul> <li>April 2009 update</li> <li>Information about commissioned play service will be available on the Family Information Service by July 2009-03-13</li> <li>Co-ordination of Leeds Play network's publication Play in Leeds with the Family Information Service is being undertaken to improve access to play information</li> <li>A system is now in place whereby practitioners can inform the Family Information Service directly of all parenting programmes that are being run in the city. As practitioners increasingly register and sign up this will improve the city wide picture of what is available for parents across the city and across their children's age ranges</li> <li>The Parenting Unit is identifying a unified model that will enable more effective targeting of resources to those families who may not readily access services, be isolated or come from minority groups. Family Outreach Workers and Parent Support Advisers are working with many families at risk of social exclusion and supporting them to access services and gain confidence. Information is increasingly produced for localities and is distributed through the schools, children's centres and the outreach workers. Increasingly targeted information is available to support door knocking and outreach work.</li> </ul>	2 (Achieved)	<b>√</b>
September 2008 response Parents and families will be assisted and encouraged through:  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.  Timescale summer 2009  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.  Timescale ongoing		

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
5	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.		
	April 2009 update A series of meetings has taken place at Extended Services Advisor and Cluster Co-ordinator level to agree procedures and timescales to produce information on the full programme of Holiday activities Summer 2009. Extended Services Clusters will receive back the information they have provided to a central database in a format that will have some consistency city wide yet enable them to quickly an efficiently customise into their own locally produced booklets. Parents will receive the full programme of Holiday Activities: Registered / Non Registered and Educational/Cultural activities provided by Education Leeds. A workshop hosted by Government Office Y&H will take place in March/April that will develop the networking relationships and confirm the operational procedures that will deliver to the clusters at local level.	4 (not achieved) Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring	
	September 2008 response 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 coordinated approach and therefore a wider offer locally.		
	January 2009 update 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.		

Recommendation	Stage	Complete
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.		
April 2009 update Transport considerations will form an important strand of the 'places to go and things to do' priority within the new Children and Young People's Plan. This will focus more attention in this area. Key partners are continuing to work closely to identify opportunities to improve transport provision, for example in supporting the progress of Metro's Strategy for Young People.	4 (not achieved) Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring	
September 2008 response 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.		
January 2009 update The position is as above with respect to this becoming a priority within the revised Children and Young People's Plan for 2009 onwards.		

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
10	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.		
	April 2009 update Progress against the initiatives outlined previously has been positive. Phase three of the children's centre programme is continuing to progress well, plans are in place for the capital work and plans are now being made with local schools and other relevant services in the reach area to develop effective partnerships. The extended services programme is also making progress and a varied programme of summer activities for 2009 is being developed. The Scrutiny Board have previously been updated on the progress of the Breeze Youth Promise and the Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board will receive an update on this work at its April meeting.  Provision will be further strengthened by work in the coming months to progress the play strategy (i.e. the playbuilder programme mentioned in the latest response to recommendation 1) and particularly by the priority within the new Children and Young People's Plan - which young people themselves identified - to provide 'places to go and things to do'.	2 (Achieved)	
	Response  There are several key initiatives in place to ensure the provision of the core offer is available across the city.  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  Children Leeds partners are monitoring progress through the Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board, helping to oversee the co-ordination of these related strands of work.		