

### Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

#### Update on working group activity

This report provides an update on the activities of the Board's various working groups, since the last meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> October.

#### Safeguarding – Resources

This working group met on 21<sup>st</sup> October to consider information about the handling of serious case reviews in Leeds, including Ofsted assessment of the reviews, and the implementation of findings from reviews

The final session will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> November. This is due to cover the following areas:

- the LGA report – Respect and protect: respect, recruitment and retention in children's social work. Safe recruitment practice.
- findings of the audit of child protection plans for 0-4 year olds in Leeds, and the Leeds self-evaluation of issues arising from the 'baby P' case, and relevant action plans from the service transformation programme

The working group will also be considering progress since the Scrutiny Inquiry report issued in 2006 on the recruitment, retention and workload of children's social workers, as well as discussing the scrutiny report recently published by Birmingham 'Who Cares? Protecting Children and Improving Children's Social Care'.

#### Safeguarding – Preventative Duty

This working group has met twice, on 7<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October, and has focused on the following areas:

- progress towards becoming a Common Assessment Framework (CAF)-led city
- pilot implementation of the CAF and Budget Holding Lead Professional programme
- take-up and outcomes of CAFs across the city to date, including number of CAFs undertaken, number of staff trained to undertake CAFs, spread of lead CAF professionals, examples of good practice and potential barriers to take-up
- the role of statutory sector partners in the CAF programme and the preventative duty, taking domestic violence as a theme for considering various partners' contributions.

Members of this working group are due to visit a Children's Centre on 6<sup>th</sup> November to see early intervention work on the ground.

A date is currently being finalised for a joint session of both Safeguarding working groups to consider the emerging conclusions and recommendations of the inquiry.

### School Organisation Consultations

This working group met on 26<sup>th</sup> October and considered the report to the October Executive Board regarding the National Challenge proposals. The working group is in the process of finalising its conclusions to report back to the full Scrutiny Board.

### Attendance

This working group is due to meet on 16<sup>th</sup> November to carry out an end of calendar year progress review.

Dates are also currently being finalised for the following working group meetings:

14-19 Review – meeting with employers  
Youth Service Surveys – first meeting