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**Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development**

**Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)**

**Date: 12 November 2009**

**Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry – The impact of population growth on children's services in Leeds**

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

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**1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 At the board's meeting in June, members agreed to carry out an inquiry into the impact of population growth on children's services in Leeds, 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 October and the second session was scheduled for November. This session will focus on the third objective of the inquiry:

*What service changes do we need to make because of population growth?*

The following information was requested:

- Action already being taken by children's services in response to population growth
- Areas of children's services that will be affected by population growth and proposals for responding to new needs
- Other services relevant to children and young people that will be affected, eg housing

The attached report at Appendix 2 summarises the evidence requested in the terms of reference.

- 1.3 Relevant officers will be at the meeting to provide further detail on how various service areas are responding to the challenges of population change, and to respond to members' questions and comments.
- 1.4 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.
- 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