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

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

**Date: 10 December 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, focusing on the first two objectives of the inquiry:

*how good is our information and how do we make it better?*

*how well do we use the information, and how can we improve?*

Representatives from the Office for National Statistics, Local Government Association and the University of Leeds School of Geography attended the Board, in addition to officers from Education Leeds on behalf of Children's Services, and from Planning, Policy and Improvement.

- 1.3 The second session was held in November, and focused on the third objective of the inquiry:

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

Officers from Education Leeds, Children and Young People's Social Care, Early Years and Health attended the Board.

- 1.4 These two sessions completed the scheduled activities for the board's inquiry. However, Members agreed that they required further evidence before they were able to complete this inquiry.
- 1.5 The issues raised where further evidence was required were:
- The information on Super Output Area (SOA)/Ward profiling held by the Regeneration service within Environment and Neighbourhoods
  - Information from Housing on changing patterns of housing provision and occupation
  - Information from the Planning Division of City Development with regard to development within the city and its likely impact on population
  - The remit and membership of the Joint Information Group involving NHS Leeds and the Council/Education Leeds
  - Further information on the proposals to accommodate increased pupil numbers in primary schools and, in the longer term, secondary schools
- 1.6 It is suggested that the Board uses its February 2010 meeting to accommodate an additional session of the inquiry to cover the above issues, and any further areas identified by the Board at this meeting.

## **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 The board is requested to agree to hold a further session of the inquiry in February 2010, and to confirm the areas of evidence to be provided.

## **Background papers**

None