

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
3	<p>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</p>	<p>4 or 5 (not achieved)</p>	
	<p><u>December 2009 update</u> Only one adoption post remains that has not been recruited to. This is the BME Adoption Officer post. This is being readvertised for a fourth time.</p> <p><i><u>July 2007 position</u></i> <i>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</i> <i>Timescale: October 2007</i></p> <p><i><u>October 2007 update</u></i> <i>The timescale for the review to be completed is now January 2008.</i></p> <p><i><u>January 2008 update</u></i> <i>The timescale for completion of the review is now March 2008.</i></p> <p><i><u>July 2008 Update</u></i> <i>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.</i></p> <p><i><u>October 2008 update</u></i> <i>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.</i></p>	<p>Board to determine whether progress is acceptable</p>	

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
	<p><u>January 2009 update</u> <i>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.</i></p> <p><u>April 2009 update</u> <i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p><u>September 2009 update</u> <i>Interviews for these posts have been held twice, without being able to recruit either time. The posts are being readvertised in Community Care in a further attempt to recruit. Further delay has been caused by the need to go to the Redeployment Board each time the posts are advertised.</i></p>		

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
2	<p>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.</p>	<p>1 (no longer relevant) or 2 (Achieved)</p>	<p>✓</p>
	<p><u>December 2009 update</u> The report regarding free travel for young people is now complete and will be circulated to interested parties including the DCS in the very near future for further discussions and next steps. The report is very clear that the current range of tickets is confusing and needs simplifying, and also that fares can be a barrier in accessing education, training, leisure and employment opportunities. Many of the benefits of a free travel scheme are accrued at a national level and it is therefore intended that the findings be shared with the Department for Transport, DCSF and others. In the meantime Metro is consulting with operators about simplifying the ticket offering perhaps to a single flat fare for all journeys, but because of the pressures on budgets, it is unlikely that changes can be implemented in the near future. Metro will of course keep the Scrutiny Board updated and will forward copies of the report for distribution.</p> <p><u>July 2007 position</u> Metro has agreed to consider this approach.</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> This type of scheme is conditional on the introduction of smart cards. Metro will keep the Scrutiny Forum informed of progress in this area.</p> <p><u>July 2008 Update</u> 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 pass to a £1 ticket. Other work to take this forward is still ongoing.</p> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> 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.</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> 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.</p> <p>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).</p> <p>The 'carnet' idea is one of the options put forward to consultants for modelling.</p> <p>The consultants' report will be available in early summer.</p>		

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.

September 2009 update

The consultants' work on concessions is in its final phase with a report expected by the end of September. In parallel, Metro is working with officers in the five districts of West Yorkshire to consider how ticketing products in general can be simplified. Work on ticketing has also been an important feature of the newly formed Metro Youth Transport Forum on which the five Youth Councils of West Yorkshire are represented. Metro Active has taken place throughout August (£1 day ticket for young people with a half fare pass) and an evaluation is now ongoing. If deemed successful, bus operators will be asked to support this promotion and extend it to other times of year.

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
5	<p>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.</p>	1	✓
	<p><u>December 2009 update</u></p> <p>As reported in September, Metro's market research suggests that young people would prefer to make complaints by phone and email. Metro has currently put extra staffing resource into complaints management and is procuring new software to make the system much simpler to handle and follow up queries. Metro will consider how to promote this service to young users and to monitor their views on the effectiveness of complaint handling.</p> <p><u>July 2007 position</u> Metro will consider this further following the launch of their young people's website</p> <p><u>January 2008 update</u> 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.</p> <p><u>July 2008 update</u> Metro has requested a quote for setting up and running a text messaging service.</p> <p><u>October 2008 update</u> A text messaging service has not yet been established, but Metro remain committed to this and are hoping to appoint an operator shortly.</p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> 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.</p>	<p>(no longer relevant) or 2 (Achieved)</p>	

April 2009 update

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.

September 2009 update

The text facility is now available for the new school year to all parents of primary school bus users.

A recent survey of nearly 1200 secondary school bus users revealed that they would like service updates by text (66%) but would prefer to make complaints by phone (49%) or email/website (21% each).

Mechanisms for delivery of the above are being developed.

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
9	<p>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.</p>		
	<p><u>December 2009 update</u></p> <p><u>September 2008 response</u> <i>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.</i></p> <p><u>January 2009 update</u> <i>The position is as above with respect to this becoming a priority within the revised Children and Young People's Plan for 2009 onwards.</i></p> <p><u>April 2009 update</u> <i>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.</i></p> <p><u>September 2009 update</u> <i>The new Children and Young People's Plan has now been completed. This gives renewed focus to work around the 'places to go and things to do' priority. Work is continuing in support of the wider initiatives to improve transport provision for young people, including the work that Metro are planning over the autumn.</i></p>		

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
5	<p>That the Director of Children's Services produces clear guidelines which support partners to manage existing and future jointly funded activities, projects or teams, with clear lines of accountability for key areas such as personnel and performance management.</p>	<p>6 (Not for review this time).</p> <p>Next review in Mar 2010</p>	
	<p><i><u>Director's Response (Approved by Executive Board April 2009)</u></i> <i>A new financial planning framework established in 2009/10 will ensure that all aspects of children's services financial planning are considered together. Detailed guidance will also be developed by a small partnership group. This will be completed by September 2009.</i></p> <p><i><u>Update on Latest Position/Activity May 2009</u></i> <i>It is anticipated that the partnership group will complete this work over the summer of 2009.</i></p> <p><i><u>September 2009 update</u></i> <i>Education Leeds has produced guidelines for schools re HR issues and 'cluster' arrangements. An HR partnership network is being established to further progress this work and produce guidance before April 2010.</i></p>		

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
6	<p>That the Director of Children's Services produces a protocol with partners which promotes proper consultation with all partners involved in jointly funded activities, projects or teams before the removal of funding. The protocol should allow for the consideration at a strategic level of the implications of the potential loss of any such service within the overall priorities for Children's Services.</p>	<p>4 (not achieved) Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring</p>	
	<p><u>December 2009 update</u></p> <p>A development paper on Locality Governance has been prepared and shared with the Council's Corporate Governance and Audit Committee. Further work is required but the paper includes recommendations that clusters should be seen as significant partnerships within the Council's overall partnership framework. The paper includes recommendations about resource management arrangements. However, this work will need to be reflected upon within the context of the current Children's Services Leadership Review.</p> <p>The Strategic Leader (Resources) has asked all partners represented on the Integrated Strategic Commissioning Board to alert him about any single agency decision which might impact adversely on existing multi-agency arrangements during the current budget planning round. He will follow up on this at the January meeting.</p> <p><i><u>Director's Response (Approved by Executive Board April 2009)</u></i> A partnership working group will be established to progress this recommendation, which will be completed by September 2009. This will link in to the financial planning framework outlined in recommendation 5 above.</p> <p><i><u>Update on Latest Position/Activity May 2009</u></i> It is anticipated that this work will be completed over the summer of 2009. This will enable the group to set it in the context of the new Children and Young People's Plan and consider new government guidance around Children's Trust Arrangements.</p> <p><i><u>September 2009 update</u></i> The Vulnerable Group Commissioning Partnership is progressing work re 'pooled' budget arrangements which will be taken through relevant partnership and executive arrangements prior to the next financial year. We will use the Co-location fund project in Seacroft and the Youth Hub project in South Leeds to further develop through practical examples protocol and guidance. Partners through ISCB will be asked to identify at an early stage in the budget cycle any jointly funded projects at risk.</p>		

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
2	<p>That the Director of Children’s Services reports back to us within 3 months on the steps being taken to ensure that:</p> <p>b) the children experience as seamless a transition as possible, regardless of which school they move on to</p> <p>c) assistance is offered to those Centres, or schools, which are having difficulty in establishing these ties, and</p> <p>d) all Children’s Centres are encouraged to form stronger ties with their Extended Services cluster where this is not already happening.</p>	<p>2 (Achieved)</p> <p>2c only for review this time.</p>	<p>✓</p>
	<p><u>December 2009 update – 2c only</u></p> <p>The recent appointment of Early Years Consultants has improved the capacity to support and advise settings in promoting these ties. Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Leadership forums have been established which involve lead EYFS practitioners from schools, Children’s Centres and settings to attend within wedge localities to facilitate partnership working. One common referral system is in place for any setting requiring support or advice with EYFS issues. Universal EYFS training and networks across all sectors are supporting practitioners in establishing and maintaining partnerships.</p> <p><i>Director’s Response (Approved by Executive Board August 2009)</i></p> <p><i>The Director of Children’s Services agrees with this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>b) We have developed guidance to ensure children experience seamless transition for their Children’s Centre this will be a focus for training at the newly established EYFS leadership and management forums from Sept.</i></p> <p><i>c) The Quality Improvement Teams across the two services are being revised in light of this report and the requirements of the Early Years Outcomes Duty to ensure a clear referral route for advice and support.</i></p> <p><i>d) Heads of Children’s Centres Services are ensuring that Children’s Centre managers attend extended services clusters meetings, both contributing to and leading developments.</i></p>	<p>2b and 2d are not for review until March 2010</p>	

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
4	<p>That the Director of Children’s Services and the Chief Executive of Education Leeds report back to us within three months on the steps being taken to promote the EYFS Transition Record as widely as possible, and to encourage as many settings as possible to make use of it.</p>	<p>6 (Not for review this time).</p>	
	<p><i>Director’s Response (Approved by Executive Board August 2009)</i> <i>The Director of Children’s Services agrees with this recommendation.</i> <i>The EYFS Transition Record has been created by a range of settings including day care and childminders. The record has been piloted and is due to be widely distributed from September 2009.</i></p>	<p>Next review in Sept 2010</p>	
7	<p>That the Director of Children’s Services and the Chief Executive of Education Leeds report back to us within three months on how the support on offer to those groups of children identified as being at high risk of underachievement, such as Black and Minority Ethnic children and those with Special Educational Needs, is being made as seamless as possible, particularly during the transition period.</p>	<p>4 (not achieved) Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring.</p>	
	<p><u>December 2009 update</u></p> <p>The ongoing work of the Data Working Group – Early Years Outcome Duty (EYOD) group two - has identified where data is held within the service. A LCC officer is coordinating a scoping project to ensure this information is accessible and available in one database; this work aims to be completed by February 2010. Meanwhile data has been used to target National Strategy programmes (e.g. Every Child a Talker) where they are needed most. Partnership working between LCC and Education Leeds continues and this is being monitored through the EYOD Quality Improvement Working Group. An Early Years Consultant is working closely with the Early Support Co-ordinator to ensure training is co-ordinated and reflects the principles of the EYFS.</p> <p><i>Director’s Response (Approved by Executive Board August 2009)</i> <i>The Director of Children’s Services agrees with this recommendation.</i> <i>Through the work of Objective 2 in the EYOD the Local Authority has recognised the need to use data in a way that supports service planning and early identification. For example information collated from Children’s Centres and schools identifies Gypsy Roma and Traveller children who may require specialist support in centre and at home. An Early Years Consultant (Early Years Service) is now working closely with the newly appointed EAL early years consultant (Education Leeds). An action plan has been drawn up which will ensure training and support is offered where needed.</i></p>		

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
8	<p>Also, that the Director of Children’s Services and the Chief Executive of Education Leeds carry out a review of the funding for children with Special Educational Needs within Early Years, within the next three months, with a particular focus on ensuring that children are offered the same level of high quality support, regardless of the type of setting which they attend.</p>	<p>4 (not achieved)</p>	
	<p><u>December 2009 update</u></p> <p>Earlier this year the Private Child-care Providers network and the Early Years Reference Group which oversees the implementation of flexible free entitlement for nursery education and the implementation of an equitable funding system for free entitlement in school and Private Voluntary and Independent Sector (PVI) nurseries, requested that a small group should look into the cost of inclusion in PVI providers. The aim of this piece of work was to develop a formula for the cost of inclusion in PVI settings and to make recommendations around the affordability for such provision in the current economic climate. The ultimate aim was to reduce barriers to inclusion in the PVI sector and ensure that this provision was sustainable.</p> <p>The work was undertaken by a small group of volunteers from the PVI sector and supported by early years business support. The findings of this group have been compiled into a draft report 'the cost of inclusion in PVI settings'. This report will be ready for consultation in the new year and the results of the consultation will be incorporated into the report.</p> <p>The outline recommendations are as follows</p> <p>a) Consultation on the following recommendations should take place</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) A single equitable funding system should be implemented across PVI and Maintained sector settings ii) The amount of funding for each type of setting should be the same per unit iii) The funding delivery system should be equitable iv) Further investigations should be undertaken to ascertain if we are able to pay this funding to the PVI sector through the free entitlement system which would reduce the resources needed to administer the system and if this would be acceptable to PVI settings <p>b) After consultation and recommendations from this are incorporated into the report, implementation should be undertaken at the earliest possible opportunity</p> <p>c) Further investigation needs to be undertaken on funding methods for those above the age of 5</p> <p><i><u>Director’s Response (Approved by Executive Board August 2009)</u></i> <i>The Director of Children’s Services agrees with this recommendation.</i> <i>A review is being undertaken around funding for young children with disabilities across all sectors to ensure inclusion and access- this will report to the Sure Start partnership in September 2009. There is a planned programme for all Children’s Centres to undertake Early Support training by April next year- this is a national programme to facilitate parental engagement as central to all planning for their disabled child.</i></p>	<p>Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring.</p>	

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
9	<p>That the Directors of Children’s Services and Education Leeds develop a means of coordinating and moderating different services and their associated governance arrangements to ensure that there is a consistently high standard of service across all providers. That the option of making use of the Area Management Boards to achieve this be considered. That a report on progress is brought to the Children’s Services Scrutiny board within the next 3 months.</p>	<p>2 (Achieved)</p>	<p>✓</p>
	<p><u>December 2009 update</u></p> <p>In April 2009 Children’s Centres identified that 59% (29) of centres have an established Advisory Board attended by a range of partners from the area and including parents as active decision makers in the development of services. By December 49 centres will have undertaken their initial Advisory Board meeting. Centres have been advised to approach the Area Management Boards for involvement and support of their governance arrangements. There are a number of centres that have active elected member support and involvement e.g. Little London, Middleton, Windmill, Ardsley and Tingley. This will be further reviewed in March 2010.</p> <p><i><u>Director’s Response (Approved by Executive Board August 2009)</u></i></p> <p><i>The Director of Children’s Services agrees with this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>The recent review of Children’s Centres identified that 59% (29) of centres have an established Advisory Board attended by a range of partners from the area and including parents as active decision makers in the development of services. All centres (49) are expected to have Advisory Boards in place by January 2010. Centres will be advised to approach the Area Management Boards for involvement and support of their governance arrangements.</i></p>		