

CYPP 2009-2014 Annual Review  
April 2010

**Review of progress against the immediate priorities**

**1 Improving outcomes for Looked After Children**

**Key challenges and areas for development**

- Strengthen the arrangements for monitoring the quality and outcomes of external placements and for those children and young people in schools out of the city
- Improve the regularity and timeliness of information-gathering on the progress of Looked After Children at a strategic level, to enable regular tracking of pupils' progress and more timely evaluation of the impact of actions and interventions on progress and learning of Looked After Children
- Implement an integrated service for Looked After Children
- Develop a clear and understandable set of measures and targets for the achievement of the Care Promise.

**2 Improving attendance and reducing persistent absence from school**

**Key challenges and areas for development**

- Securing delivery of the Children Leeds attendance strategy and activity plan through effective partnership engagement
- Targeted work with secondary schools to further address levels of persistent absence, including persistent absence for Looked After Children.

**3 Improving early learning and primary outcomes in deprived areas**

**Key challenges and areas for development**

- 34 primary schools are below the national key stage 2 floor target, an increase of 6 from 2008. An increasing trend was also seen nationally. To meet national ambitions will require Leeds to have 19 or fewer schools below the target in 2011.

**4. Places to go and things to do**

**Key challenges and areas for development**

- Loss of time limited funding for key projects in 2011, eg. Find Your Talent, Positive activities for young people, Youth Opportunity Fund, Youth Capital Fund and Engage
- Transport facilities and arrangements, particularly for those in disadvantaged areas
- Improved integration of websites and information sources.

## **5 Raising the proportion of young people in education or work**

### **Key challenges and areas for development**

- The current economic climate is especially challenging for young people entering the workplace for the first time
- Delivering the Children's services improvement plan activities for EET/NEET
- Improved collaboration between learning providers, employers and Connexions providers.

## **6 Reducing child poverty**

### **Key challenges and areas for development**

- Gaining the widest acceptance that poverty is the root of most poor outcomes for children and is the business of every service, agency and partner. There is a need to grow the commitment to developing integrated work to provide children, young people and families with pathways to economic and personal well being
- The current, medium and long term economic climate will impact upon employment and the income and resources in families
- There is limited project management capacity to take work on this priority forward across agencies. This will become acute as the statutory requirements in the Child Poverty Bill for joint needs assessment and strategy development are put in place.
- Developing coherent approach to Think Family policies and practice in the city, including working between services for children and young people and adult services
- The need to embed work to raise aspiration and resilience in family support work and to reduce the level of EET/NEET and narrow educational achievement gaps.

## **7 Reducing teenage conception**

### **Key challenges and areas for development**

- Mainstreaming teenage pregnancy as a priority across all services and strategies
- Challenging services to provide young people friendly services, especially for those less likely to engage with mainstream services
- Support for young fathers post 16.

## **8 Reducing the need for children and young people to be in care**

### **Key challenges and areas for development**

- Deliver the 5 themes of the 2010/11 Placement Strategy: edge of care; fostering; adoption; residential care; discharge from care
- Recruitment and retention of social workers; recruitment drive for fostering, adoption and family placement personnel
- The national trend arising from greater awareness of abuse and neglect, 17% rise in referrals in last 2 quarter 2s
- Capacity of CAF team to deal with the increase in the number of CAFs
- Fully evaluate the effectiveness of preventative services and respond to findings,

- including the Children Leeds Panels and residential provision
- Delivery of relevant sections of Children's Services Improvement Plan.

## **9 Strengthening safeguarding**

### **Key challenges and areas for development**

- Developing locality based integration around the multi-agency panels and ISLs and securing wider engagement with the CAF and stronger understanding of the suite of threshold documentation
- There is a need to develop clear pathway processes for all referrals that do not meet thresholds for statutory interventions and ensure that integrated working, the CAF and multi agency panel address needs
- Performance in the completion of initial and core assessments within the appropriate timescales, as illustrated in Table 10, is the subject of intensive activity reflected in the Children's Services Improvement Plan
- Clarity in roles and responsibilities for the ISLs and an evaluation of the placement pilot to ensure that capacity to support the integration of services is appropriate and in place at the end of the pilot
- The Clusters of Extended Services including schools, children's centres and their partners need to be supported, challenged and further developed to ensure they are able to take a lead in the integration of services locally
- Evaluation of case work in the Children Leeds Intervention Panels and CAF teams around the child needs to inform the commissioning of early intervention and preventative services.
- Work needs to be undertaken to assess the capacity needed centrally in the CAF and the Children Leeds Intervention Panel team and where those teams are best located. There will be an anticipated increase in the number of CAFs and capacity needed to support progress towards the national e CAF.
- Degrees of vulnerability are impacted by economic recession which exacerbates the likelihood of exposure to abuse and neglect.
- Fully evaluate the effectiveness of preventative services and respond to findings, including the Children Leeds Panels and residential provision

## **10 Enabling integrated working**

### **Key challenges and areas for development**

- Development of integrated service for Looked After Children
- Development of an integrated disability service
- Development of an integrated family support service
- Effective roll out and use of Multi agency thresholds in all agencies
- Deliver agreed action plan for the further embedding of CAF, particularly to inform early intervention across Children's services
- Emphasis on integrated working around the Think Family agenda as well as around the child
- Development of greater mutual understanding between universal front line services and specialist and targeted services
- Integration of Leeds inclusive learning strategy into city wide arrangements for integrated working