

Report of the Director of Children’s Services

Report to Area Committees

Date: 14th January 2011

Subject: Children’s Services Performance Report

Electoral Wards Affected:

All Wards

Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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Executive Summary

This report supports local elected member engagement with the work of children’s services by providing Area Committees with an update against key data relating to education for the academic year 2009-10; and November 2010 NEET and Not Known data. It also provides details of recent key inspections that have taken place across Children’s Services and provides an update on the development of the new Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP) 2011-2015.

This report aims to support elected member involvement with children’s services locally by helping to strengthen understanding of some key performance information at a local level. It builds on previous children’s services performance reports presented to Area Committees during 2010. The first of which covered similar themes to those in this report and the second of which covered themes primarily relating to Children and Young People’s Social Care and intervention work. This report provides comparative information for those issues that were reported in the equivalent report during 2010. We will continue to improve the local reporting to build local knowledge and ownership around the agenda. Increasingly, the reporting will be around the CYPP priorities.

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is support local elected member engagement with the work of children's services by providing Area Committees with an update of key data relating to education for the academic year 2009-10; and November 2010 NEET and Not Known data. It also provides details of recent key inspections that have taken place across Children's Services and provides an update on the development of the new Children and Young People's Plan 2011-2015.
- 1.2 As we work to transform and improve children's services across Leeds we are keen to identify opportunities to involve members in taking this agenda forward. An important component of this is giving members the data about local issues that enables more targeted and informed responses to challenges and need. Within this content it is important that members get the opportunity to engage in the performance management process and in particular receive the latest information available for the issues outlined above at ward level (where possible). The report builds on previous performance reports and where appropriate provides comparative information for those issues that were reported in the corresponding report during 2010.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Children's services in Leeds are currently undergoing an important period of change and improvement. Throughout 2010 work at citywide and local level has focused on responding to the priorities set out in the Children's Services improvement Plan, which in turn was in part a response to a Government Improvement Notice. A new Director of Children's Services, Nigel Richardson, joined Leeds in September 2010 and has given further impetus to the improvement and transformation work across the service, which includes a focus on stronger locality working. Elected Members have an important role to play in supporting and contributing to this work, particularly at a local level. This requires a good understanding the local context to enable better targeting of priority areas, particularly in relation to the priorities and ambitions of the new Children and Young People's Plan, which is currently under development (and discussed below).
- 2.2 To support Councillors to undertake this work, a process has been established for Area Committees to receive two performance reports per year. One report for the February/March cycle that focuses on educational attainment, attendance, exclusions, Ofsted judgments and NEET. The second report is produced for the September/October cycle and focuses on Looked After Children (LAC) data, C&YPSC assessment data and CAF data.
- 2.3 Information on the new CYPP for 2011-15 is provided in this report. The new plan is built around delivering against five outcomes and 11 priorities. The new plan will provide a platform to further improve reporting to Area Committees and identify a wider range of valuable locality data to ensure Councillors have the information to more fully understand their neighbourhoods and improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

2.0 Structure of the Report

- 2.1 The first part of the report provides a brief overview of the education and NEET and Not Known data that is being reported with further detail, including the disaggregated data at Area Committee or Ward level, provided in the appendices listed below:
- Appendix 1 - Ofsted inspection judgments; attainment; absence/ attendance and exclusions data
 - Appendix 1a - NI 108 – Key Stage 4 attainment for Black and minority ethnic groups
 - Appendix 2 - NEET and Not Known data
- 2.2 The second part of the report provides information on key recent inspections that have taken place across Children's Services. It also provides an update on the new Children and Young People Plan for 2011-15 and its outcomes and priorities.

3.0 Education Data

3.1 The data relating to **education** included in Appendix 1 covers the following areas:

- **Ofsted Judgements Block A Performance Profile**
- **Attainment** – foundation; primary and secondary
 - **NI 72** - Early Years Foundation Stage to increase achievement for all children age five
 - **NI 76** - Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 55% of pupils achieve level 4 or above in both English and Maths at KS2
 - **NI 73** - Achievement at level 4 or above in both English and Maths at Key Stage 2
 - **NI 75** - The number of pupils achieving 5 or more A*-C or equivalent including English and maths at KS4 as a percentage of the number of pupils at the end of KS4

* Please note 08/09 data is also provided for **NI 76** and **NI 75** as these indicators were included in the Jan 2009 -10 report that detailed education attainment results.

- **Absence / Attendance (local data)** – primary attendance and persistent absence; secondary attendance and persistent absence
- **Exclusions (local data)** – permanent and fixed term exclusions (number and rate per 1,000 including academies)

3.2 In addition to the above, an update has also been provided against some key performance indicators included within Improvement Notice which are as follows:

- **NI 78** – Reduction in number of schools where fewer than 30% of pupils achieve 5 or more A*- C grades at GCSE and equivalent including GCSEs in English and Maths
- **NI 79** - Achievement of a Level 2 qualification by the age of 19
- **NI 102 A)** Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 2
- **NI 102 B)** Achievement gap between pupils eligible for free school meals and their peers achieving the expected level at Key Stage 4

NI 108 – Key Stage 4 attainment for Black and minority ethnic groups is also included in the Improvement Notice. Detailed information on this indicator can be found in Appendix 1a.

4.0 NEET Data

4.1 Data on November figures for NEET and Not Known can be found in Appendix 2. As well as the city wide positions, the data has been disaggregated to ward level.

4.2 Whilst the NEET and Not Known positions are improving, they are still a major challenge for the City which the public and private sector will need to collectively address to ensure young people have improved outcomes and are able to participate and contribute to the communities in which they live.

4.3 There has been improved comparative performance and a positive overall reduction in the annual NEET figures, from 9.6% in 2008-09 to 8.2% in 2009-10. Increasing the levels of young people in employment, education or training is one of the 11 priorities in the new Children and Young People's Plan. We are keen to find strategies that will build on the improvements of the last year, but also recognise that doing so will be particularly challenging given the current economic context. The Connexions Service has seen a reduction in staff numbers, meaning new approaches and partnerships will be needed for children's services as a whole if we are to sustain the recent improvements made on the NEET and particularly the Not Known level. It will also be important to monitor the impact on changing national policy, for example the removal of Education Maintenance Allowance, as this may also make the prioritisation of reducing NEETs

and not knowns more challenging. A targetted focus on 'turning the curve' around NEETs will begin shortly (discussed in the CYP Plan section below) and it is intended that this will help to find the best solutions to the issue within the changing context.

- 4.4 Other developments relating to the NEET agenda include the merger of The Children Leeds Learning Partnership, the 14-19 Strategy Group and the IYSS Board to form the 11-19 (25 for disabled young people) Learning and Support Partnership which met for the first time in September 2010. This Partnership will have clear ownership of the NEET Strategy on a permanent basis. The corporate NEET Improvement Board, which has driven significant improvements since November 2009, has passed all residual elements of the NEET Improvement Plan to this new partnership.

5.0 Update on Recent Inspections in Children's Services

- 5.1 Appendix 1 contains an update on the inspection reports published on the Ofsted website as at 31st December for **primary schools, secondary schools and sixth forms**. Other recent inspections that have taken place in Children's Services include the **Adoption Service** inspection.

- 5.2 The **Adoption Service** inspection report was published on Monday 11th January. The service has been graded as 'good' overall, with some outstanding features. This is considered a significant achievement for the service and for all the partner agencies who support them in delivering such high standard of provision in this very challenging field.

- 5.3 The scores for the different aspects of the inspection are as follows:

Overall grading:	Good
Be Healthy:	Not judged on these inspections
Stay safe:	Good
Enjoy and Achieve	Outstanding
Positive Contribution:	Good
Economic wellbeing:	Not judged on these inspections
Organisation:	Good

- 5.4 The positive comments in the report reflect improvements across the service and this is a very positive indicator for the service and the rest of Children's Services. This follows a positive inspection for the fostering earlier in 2010, when the service received a 'good' rating overall.

- 5.5 Leeds has 13 children's homes, including East Moor Secure Children's Home. All of Leeds' residential provision is judged by Ofsted as satisfactory or good, one home has benefited from a closely supervised management plan to achieve satisfactory and was inspected on 14th January 2010, achieving a verbal report of satisfactory, this judgement will be published within 2 weeks.

- 5.6 The **Youth Offending Service** received top marks in its recent inspection report. The findings published on 12th January stated the youth offending service in Leeds is performing very well.

- 5.7 Leeds scored well above the national average in all three areas inspected by HM Inspectorate of Probation – safeguarding, risk of harm to others, and reducing the likelihood of re-offending. The report is scored as a percentage of work that the inspectors judged to be of high quality in each category, and the level of improvement needed. The results were as follows:

Safeguarding – 84% (national average is 67%)
Risk of harm to others – 76% (national average is 62%)
Likelihood of re-offending – 83% (national average is 69%)

- 5.8 Inspectors agreed that the service only needed a minimum level of improvement for each category. This is the highest rating available to the inspectors, and equivalent to a grade of '**outstanding**'.

- 5.9 Since Ofsted commenced inspecting **Children's Centres** in September, 5 Children's Centres have been inspected.
- 5.10 **Seacroft Children's Centre** received the highest possible score in every category of the Ofsted report and obtained an '**Outstanding**' judgment. The inspectors highlighted the determination of all staff to secure outstanding outcomes for children and their families, as well as the centre's extremely flexible approach to the delivery of services that ensures the exceptional support provided is correctly targeted to the changing needs of the community, families and children.
- 5.11 The 4 other Children's Centres that have been inspected and the judgments they received are outlined below:

Harehills	Good
Little London	Good
Burley Park	Satisfactory
Richmond	Satisfactory

6.0 Children and Young People Plan (CYPP) 2011-15

- 6.1 Although the government has stated its intention that there will no longer be a statutory requirement to have a Children and Young People's Plan, Leeds' Children's Trust Board (CTB) has confirmed its commitment to having a single shared vision for children and young people across the city and a set of priorities to focus joint effort and activity.
- 6.2 The city wide planning framework for Leeds identifies the CTB as the owner of one of five City Priority Plans -The Children and Young People Plan. The other four City Priority Plans are: Safer Leeds; Health and Wellbeing; Sustainable Economy; and Regeneration and Development. Each plan will have a four year timescale commencing April 2011. It is anticipated that the final draft of the refreshed CYPP will be taken to the CTB on March 24th and the Children's Services Scrutiny Board on March 17th.
- 6.3 The new Children and Young People's Plan is built around a new vision for Leeds to become a child friendly city. The idea of a child friendly city builds on a project developed by Unicef that aims to help cities develop a system of good governance committed to fulfilling children's rights. There is more information on the website www.childfriendlycities.org. This city ambition can be used to engage a wide range of partners, public, private, voluntary and communities more generally in a collective effort to put the child at the heart, make the economic case for investing in the future, and evidence the voice and influence the child.
- 6.4 The five outcomes the CYPP will cover to make sure that children and young people:
- are safe from harm;
 - do well in learning and develop skills for life;
 - choose healthy lifestyles;
 - have fun growing up; and
 - are active citizens who feel they have voice and influence,

will be underpinned with a short, clear set of eleven priorities, including a cross-cutting focus on minimising the effects of poverty on children and families (see Appendix 3 for a breakdown of outcomes; priorities and the delivery lead). They will be delivered by creating a stronger sense of the shared values and behaviours that bind the children's workforce and these will in turn reflect the Council's new corporate values. To do this there will be an increased focus on working in partnership to develop the children's workforce together in a way that helps us realise our ambitions. An 'outcome based accountability' approach will be used to engage those who can make a difference to the priority areas.

- 6.5 Using this approach, in the short term there will be an immediate drive to re-assess current activity around three areas where children's services partners have identified the need to 'turn

the curve' as quickly as possible. Workshops to begin this effort by using outcomes based accountability are planned for late January. These will cover three key measures: the number of looked after children; the number of children and young people not in employment; education or training and the level of school attendance.

- 6.6 Outcomes based accountability is an approach that engages a broad cross section of partners and staff to work out how best to develop practical action plans that deliver against priorities and improve the baseline position (commonly known as the 'turning the curve' methodology) for key measures. It is proposed to use this approach at city and locality level.

7.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

- 7.1 The performance data and ongoing activities mentioned in this report will help inform future policy / strategy development as well as the redesign of Children's Services.

8.0 Legal and Resource Implications

- 8.1 There are no legal and resource implications.

9.0 Conclusions

- 9.1 Not applicable as the report is information based.

10.0 Recommendations

- 10.1 Area Committees are requested to note the contents of this report, to inform their role in improving outcomes locally.

Background papers

Children's Services Performance Report to Area Committees: February/March 2010
Children's Services Performance Report to Area Committees: September/October 2010
Children's Services Performance Update Report: Executive Board, 15th December.