

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
2	<p>That the Director of Children’s Services and the Chief Executive of Education Leeds explore children and young people’s participation in activities and identify barriers to participation in more depth, either by including questions in the next Every Child Matters survey or by developing a separate survey using the Be Heard survey tool.</p>	<p>2 (Achieved)</p>	
	<p><u>January 2012 update</u> A consultation on children and young people’s priorities was carried out over the summer of 2011 as part of the city’s commitment to become a Child Friendly City, and a set of priorities was agreed by Children’s Trust Board in October. Of particular relevance for this scrutiny recommendation are the priorities chosen by the Play and Culture group, which include issues of communication, signposting and access. The Play and Culture group is one of five themed groups working as part of the Child Friendly City development.</p> <p><u>Play and culture</u> Priority 1: Places and spaces to play and things to do – this is to include accessibility for all, equality of opportunity across the city, maximising provision with staff, all year round provision. Communicating existing provision, what is going on where.</p> <p>Priority 2: The city centre – access to, and creating playful and friendly place. This is to include signposting and communicating what provision is available in the city centre especially creative arts opportunities.</p> <p>It is suggested that the Scrutiny Board’s original report and recommendation is forwarded to the Play and Culture group to inform their ongoing work.</p>		

Director's Response

It is agreed that understanding barriers to participation is an important area of work. Officers will explore the most appropriate way to gather young people's views on this. This may involve using the Every Child Matters survey, or the Be Heard survey tool, but it may also be that another approach is considered more likely to gather a wider range of opinions from those young people who do not currently participate.

The new Children's Trust Board are also investigating opportunities to widen participation and will be working with young people to explore suitable opportunities.

January 2011 update

We continue to recognise the importance of understanding barriers to participation. The Every Child Matters survey steering group have considered the scrutiny recommendation, however it is not felt that using the ECM survey would be the best way to build a more detailed understanding around this issue. Officers from different areas of participation work are currently working together to identify the best way to carry out an effective piece of research with non-service users. The progress of this is however subject to other areas of work and limited capacity.

July 2011 update

It has been decided that a non-user survey would be the most appropriate method. Cluster Managers are interested in undertaking the survey with schools in their local areas, as this information will be very useful to them. It is also hoped to capture the 16-19 age group through Breeze and the local colleges. However the progress of this work continues to be affected by limited capacity.

<p><u>Director's Response</u></p> <p><i>It is agreed that understanding barriers to participation is an important area of work. Officers will explore the most appropriate way to gather young people's views on this. This may involve using the Every Child Matters survey, or the Be Heard survey tool, but it may also be that another approach is considered more likely to gather a wider range of opinions from those young people who do not currently participate.</i></p> <p><i>The new Children's Trust Board are also investigating opportunities to widen participation and will be working with young people to explore suitable opportunities.</i></p> <p><u>January 2011 update</u></p> <p><i>We continue to recognise the importance of understanding barriers to participation. The Every Child Matters survey steering group have considered the scrutiny recommendation, however it is not felt that using the ECM survey would be the best way to build a more detailed understanding around this issue. Officers from different areas of participation work are currently working together to identify the best way to carry out an effective piece of research with non-service users. The progress of this is however subject to other areas of work and limited capacity.</i></p> <p><u>July 2011 update</u></p> <p><i>It has been decided that a non-user survey would be the most appropriate method. Cluster Managers are interested in undertaking the survey with schools in their local areas, as this information will be very useful to them. It is also hoped to capture the 16-19 age group through Breeze and the local colleges. However the progress of this work continues to be affected by limited capacity.</i></p>		
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	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
2	<p>That the Director of Children’s Services explores the scope for children’s social care to make more effective use of Silverdale Holiday Camp, and reports back to us in 3 months.</p>	<p>4 (not achieved)</p>	
	<p><u>January 2012 update</u> A mutually convenient date for the proposed meeting to consider possible options to expand the use of Silverdale is still being sought.</p> <p><i><u>Director’s Response April 2011</u></i> The Chief Officer for CYPSC and the Head of Service for Looked after Children will meet with representatives from Silverdale and consider how best to use the holiday opportunities provided by the outdoor centre in Morecambe. We will report back on best use in 3 months.</p> <p><i><u>July 2011 update</u></i> A meeting has now been scheduled in the Head of Service’s diary. We will report back after the meeting has taken place.</p> <p><i><u>October 2011 update</u></i> The Head of Service has met with the relevant officers and agreement has been reached re possible options for expansion of the use of Silverdale for Looked after Children. A further meeting with the service manager is to be arranged to explore these further.</p>	<p>Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring</p>	

	Recommendation	Stage	Complete
1	<p>That the Schools Forum and the Member Management Committee give further consideration to including a Scrutiny Board representative on the Schools Forum panel, if this remains appropriate in the light of emerging legislation regarding control of school balances.</p>	<p>4 (not achieved)</p>	
	<p><u>January 2012 update</u> There is currently no further clarity from the DfE. The requirement to have a surplus balance control mechanism has been removed by the DfE on the basis that schools should have more autonomy. If a Local Authority continues to maintain a mechanism, a surplus may only be withdrawn 'where schools have built up significant excessive uncommitted balances and/or where some level of redistribution would support improved provision across the local area.'</p> <p><i><u>Director's Response July 2011</u></i> This recommendation is accepted and Schools Forum and the Member Management Committee should give consideration to including a Scrutiny Board representative on the Schools Forum panel. However, it is recommended that implementation of this recommendation should await greater certainty about the future of the Panel mechanism to save making an appointment to a body that may not be continuing in its present form.</p> <p><i>In the meantime, as Scrutiny Board members are aware, a pragmatic approach has been adopted for this year's Panel, in that the Scrutiny Board nominated an informal observer who attended the Panel meeting in June. This experience will help inform a decision about the appropriateness of a formal appointment once the future of the Panel has become clearer.</i></p>	<p>Progress made acceptable. Continue monitoring</p>	