

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

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2012**

**Subject: Draft Terms of Reference – Foundation Years - providing the best start in life for Children to succeed**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**1. Summary of Main Issues**

- 1.1 The vision for Leeds is that by 2030 it is a Child Friendly City. The methodology for delivering this vision is defined in The Children and Young Peoples Plan which details five headline outcomes one of which is that Children and Young People will do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) understand as a result of inquires into Child Poverty, School Attendance and Increasing the number of young people in Education, Employment and Training that good support for parents and children early in a child's life is important. The Marmot Review ' Give Every Child the best start in life' states that "Later interventions although important, are considerably less effective where good early foundations are lacking". The Board are also very aware that children growing up in disadvantaged families are less likely to succeed in later life as they do not have the same level of support or benefit as others. A number of reports have been produced<sup>1</sup> which make clear that early help and intervention is crucial to get families out of the cycle of poor outcomes. These reports have become the focus of subsequent foundation years documentation identifying required change, produced by the Department of Health and the Department for Education.

<sup>1</sup> By Professor Sir Michael Marmot, The Rt Hon Frank Field MP, Graham Allen MP, Dame Clare Tickell and Professor Eileen Munro.

1.3 Considering these factors at its meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2012, the Scrutiny Board resolved to undertake an inquiry looking at foundation years (age 0- 5) and how services in Leeds are provided to promote the best start in life for children, to equip them with the skills to succeed and promote their social mobility.

1.4 The following matters were specifically highlighted as areas of interest:

- The universal and targeted health, wellbeing and developmental support in place for children and their families during foundation years (0-5) in Leeds.
- Levels of support and engagement with families particularly those that are disadvantaged or hard to reach
- Provision and delivery services, particularly those delivered in partnership with others such as the NHS and private and voluntary sector, the promotion of services and how accessible these services are.
- To determine how well Leeds is working to identify challenges and take appropriate measures to improve outcomes for children and their families.
- To identify how take up of free early education provision can be improved in the more deprived areas of Leeds.

1.5 Additional guidance has been sought from the Head of Service (Early Help Service) in order to recommend areas of focus for the inquiry.

The Board also notes the inquiry published in June 2009, Education Standards – Entering the Education System and the Health Inequalities work undertaken by the Scrutiny Board Health & Wellbeing and Adult Social Care in April 2012 which is relevant to this inquiry.

## **2. Recommendation**

The Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) is recommended to:

- 2.1 Note the information contained within this report, make further recommendation to update the terms of reference where necessary and agree the terms of reference for the inquiry.
- 2.2 Note that the terms of reference may incorporate additional information during the inquiry should the Children and Families Scrutiny Board identify any further scope for inquiry or request further witness or evidence.

## **1.0 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2012, the Scrutiny Board resolved to undertake an Inquiry looking at foundation years (age 0- 5) and how services in Leeds are provided to promote the best start in life for children, to equip them with the skills to succeed and promote their social mobility.
- 1.2 The purpose of the inquiry is to make an assessment of and, where appropriate, make recommendations on the following areas:
- The universal and targeted health, wellbeing and developmental support in place for Children and their families during foundation years (0-5) in Leeds.
  - Levels of support and engagement with families particularly those that are disadvantaged or hard to reach
  - Provision and delivery services, particularly those delivered in partnership with others such as the NHS and private and voluntary sector, the promotion of services and how accessible these services are.
  - To determine how well Leeds is working to identify challenges and take appropriate measures to improve outcomes for children and their families.
  - To identify how take up of free early education provision can be improved in the more deprived areas of Leeds.
- 1.3 The Board also notes the Scrutiny inquiry published in June 2009, Education Standards – Entering the Education System which examined the following areas:
- How information on attainment is collected by childcare providers, and in particular what impact the introduction of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) will have on this
  - How this information is shared with primary schools
  - How attainment is measured within primary schools, both on entry to foundation stage and at KS1
  - More broadly, how the transition between pre-school provision and primary provision is managed
  - How children at risk of underachievement are identified at an early stage, and how information relating to them is shared between the different services involved
  - How information about the needs of all children aged 0-7 and their families is collected and used by other services.
- 1.4 During April 2012 a working group of the Scrutiny Board (Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care) considered evidence specifically relating to health inequalities for children under 5 years of age. During this session information relating to the Family Nurse Partnership was considered, an approach which was wholly supported by the working group. A number of proposed draft recommendations have been determined which will be taken into account during this inquiry. The main outcomes are as follows:

- The city needs to target services towards the most deprived communities to tackle the entrenched social inequalities that form the wider determinants of health – poverty, poor housing, poor environment, low educational outcomes, unemployment, low aspiration.
- the Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) approach is wholeheartedly supported, with the outcome of the formal review to be reported back to the Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care Board. Subject to the outcome of the review of the pilot areas, consideration to be given to expanding the approach across the City.
- Concern about the significant impact on families in the more deprived areas of Leeds who are at higher risk of suffering health inequalities.
- Concern about access to information and services in the more deprived areas of Leeds.

## **2.0 Comments of the relevant Director and Executive Member**

- 2.1 In line with Scrutiny Board Procedure Rule 12.1 where a Scrutiny Board undertakes an Inquiry the Scrutiny Board shall consult with any relevant Director and Executive Member on the terms of reference.

## **3.0 Timetable for the inquiry**

- 3.1 The Inquiry will take place at the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September, 11<sup>th</sup> of October and 15<sup>th</sup> of November with a view to issuing a final report in January 2013.
- 3.2 The length of the Inquiry may change.

## **4.0 Submission of evidence**

### **4.1 September 2012**

#### Supporting and Engaging with Families

- Universal Offer Overview
- Challenges
  - Children in vulnerable groups (inc SEN and Disabled and Looked after Children)
  - Problems associated with areas of deprivation
  - Communication and engagement with disadvantaged and hard to reach groups

### **October 2012**

#### Supporting and Engaging with Families

- Health and wellbeing
  - Healthy child programme( 0 – 5 years), the role of Health Visitors and the Family Nurse Partnership.

- Service commissioning, links between practitioners and professionals, provision and the delivery of integrated services, communication and information sharing.
- Access to services and the provision of support through Childrens Centres such as 'Early Start'.
- Targeted Services, Early intervention, Parental support and parenting programmes, evidence based intervention, troubled families.

## **November 2012**

### Child Development

- Leeds Education Challenge – Foundation Stage: Children's Services and Cluster approach to the three prime development areas,
  - personal, social and emotional development,
  - communication and language and
  - physical development.
- Progress since the Education Standards – Entering the Education System inquiry 2009.
- Early Years Foundation Stage (Sept 2012) Legislation changes
- Free early education – take up of places for 3 and 4 year olds, increasing take up and engaging parents.
- Extension of free early education to 2 year olds (Sept 2013) – Preparation, promotion and strengthening the quality of providers

## **5.0 Witnesses**

5.1 The following witnesses have been identified as possible contributors to the Inquiry:

- Officers from Children's Services
- NHS Airedale Bradford and Leeds
- Members of the Childrens Trust Board
- External Stakeholders and Representatives of multi-agency partners
- Early Years Education and Childcare Providers.

5.2 The Board will always seek to include the views of children and young people and their parents and carers as evidence to its inquiries wherever possible and practicable.

## **6.0 Post inquiry report monitoring arrangements**

6.1 Following the completion of the Scrutiny inquiry and the publication of the final inquiry report and recommendations, the implementation of the agreed recommendations will be monitored by the Scrutiny Board

## **7.0 Measures of success**

7.1 It is important to consider how the Scrutiny Board will deem if their inquiry has been successful in making a difference. Some measures of success may be obvious at the initial stages of an inquiry and can be included in these terms of reference.

Other measures of success may become apparent as the inquiry progresses and discussions take place.

## **8 Corporate Considerations**

### **8.1 Consultation and Engagement**

Where the board deems it appropriate to undertake in consultation in order to conduct the inquiry or gather necessary evidence consultation could be undertaken.

### **8.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration.**

- 8.2.1 The Equality Improvement Priorities 2011 to 2015 have been developed to ensure our legal duties are met under the Equality Act 2010. The priorities will help the council to achieve its ambition to be the best City in the UK and ensure that as a city work takes place to reduce disadvantage, discrimination and inequalities of opportunity.
- 8.2.2 Equality and diversity will be a consideration throughout the Scrutiny Inquiry and due regard will be given to equality through the use of evidence, written and verbal, outcomes from consultation and engagement activities.
- 8.2.3 The Scrutiny Board may engage and involve interested groups and individuals (both internal and external to the council) to inform recommendations.
- 8.2.4 Where an impact has been identified this will be reflected in the final inquiry report, post inquiry. Where a Scrutiny Board recommendation is agreed the individual, organisation or group responsible for implementation or delivery should give due regard to equality and diversity, conducting impact assessments where it is deemed appropriate.

### **8.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

This inquiry will assist in achieving outcomes and priorities as defined in the Children and Young Peoples Plan 2011-2-15 and the Child Friendly City Priority Plan.

### **8.4 Resources and Value for Money**

There is no resource or value for money implications relating to this report. At the conclusion of the inquiry any identified impact will be reported in the final inquiry report.

### **8.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

None

### **8.6 Risk Management**

None

## **8.7 Recommendations**

The Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) is recommended to:

- 8.7.1 Note the information contained within this report, make further recommendation to update the terms of reference where necessary and agree the terms of reference for the inquiry.
- 8.7.2 Note that the terms of reference may incorporate additional information during the inquiry should the Children and Families Scrutiny Board identify any further scope for inquiry or request further witness or evidence.

## **8.8 Background documents<sup>2</sup>**

None

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<sup>2</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available for inspection on request for a period of four years following the date of the relevant meeting. Accordingly this list does not include documents containing exempt or confidential information, or any published works. Requests to inspect any background documents should be submitted to the report author.