

Report of Director of Children’s Services

Date: 5 September 2012

Subject: Children’s Services Update Report to Area Committees – Inner West

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input 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

Summary of Main Issues

This is the second children’s services area committee report for 2012. These six-monthly reports are intended to keep members informed of the current issues facing the Directorate and children’s partnership as well as the progress that is being made against local and national agendas. This includes a performance update against the obsessions and priorities of the Leeds Children and Young People’s Plan (CYPP). The report summarises city level performance with summary details and commentary at area committee level. Local children’s cluster information is included in appendices.

The report builds on previous reports presented to Area Committees in 2010 and 2011. Reports are provided in February/March and September. The majority of education results are presented in the February/March cycle.

Recommendations

- 1 Area Committees are requested to note the content of this report.
- 2 Area Committees are asked for feedback on the report and to request any follow up on the issues highlighted.

1.0 Purpose of this Report

1.1 This report is the second of two reports for 2012 that provide elected members with an update on Children's Services developments. This report further develops this approach offering Area Committees updates:

- On key developments concerning children's services in Leeds. This includes the development of the targeted services and related developments in locality provision.
- On performance against the children and young people's plan. Information is provided at an area committee level where it is possible to do so. Commentary on the data by area committee is included. Education results are given prominence in the spring February / March cycles as information at this point in the year remains highly provisional or not yet available.
- Appended to the report is the children's and young people's plan monthly performance dashboard for June and the latest cluster overviews for the clusters in or predominately in this area committee. These provides in-year performance information at cluster level and detailed information on children's outcomes by cluster.

1.2 We want Leeds to be a Child Friendly City with high aspirations and strong outcomes for children and young people and families. To achieve this we are:

- Delivering our Children and Young People's Plan with a focus on our three obsessions: keeping families safe from harm through reducing the need for children to enter care; ensuring children and young people are attending school and learning; and promoting young people's engagement in education, employment and training.
- Basing our efforts on a shared commitment to Child Friendly City supported by all communities and sectors. This is not only about good outcomes for children and young people it is about ensuring their voice is heard and that their influence is real. We are also committed to achieving reductions in child poverty.
- Developing the Leeds Education Challenge to ensure that Leeds children and young people are engaged in learning and that they are achieving good results. This includes addressing the gaps in achievement that exist in Leeds and ensuring that Leeds results compare well with national results.
- Supporting the above with effective partnership working delivered through the Children's Trust and through local cluster partnerships. This will be supported by a new Leeds City Council Children's Services directorate. The principles of Restorative Practice and Outcomes Based Accountability will underpin the working of both the directorate and the partnership arrangements.

1.3 Member involvement is crucial to the above agendas. This report further updates members of the key areas of work and issues facing Children's Services as we progress through this important period of change and improvement. It also offers an outline of current progress through the presentation of performance data. This provides members with data that supports an informed discussion on local challenges, needs and progress against the Leeds Children's Plan. This is intended to help Area Committees to take these priorities forward at a local level and to gain an

understanding of how these issues relate to the needs of the communities in their areas, including the local children's clusters.

2.0 Key Developments in Children's Services

- 2.1 The previous Children's Services update paper was submitted to Area Committees at the March 2012 cycle of meeting. Since then there has been good ongoing progress on a number of important initiatives. The following serves as a brief and broad overview of this work and is intended to provide the wider context for members to consider the more detailed performance information within this report.

Child Friendly Leeds

- 2.2 In the previous update report members were informed about the overarching ambition for Leeds to become a Child Friendly City. This ambition is captured within the Leeds Children Young people's Plan 2011-15 and will be delivered through a city-wide approach to addressing the five outcomes, eleven priorities and three 'obsession' issues identified for the city. The Plan has been refreshed this year to ensure it continues to reflect the most important areas of work with children and young people.
- 2.3 Through the ambition for Child Friendly Leeds we are creating the framework for a city-wide effort to improve the lives of children and young people, with partners from every sector invited to play a part. We want to create the conditions where everyone who is doing something for children and young people in the city feels like they are part of something bigger - a collective effort to make Leeds the best city to grow up in. This then provides the means and message to encourage businesses, the media, sports clubs and other public and voluntary sector partners to 'sign up' and pledge specific actions in support of child friendly Leeds, as their contribution to the city-wide ambition. These contributions can be wide ranging and might include things like offering apprenticeships, providing mentoring to young people, volunteering on young people's projects, encouraging schools governors, promoting fostering with their organisation, or having family friendly policies.
- 2.4 In recent months this work has gathered significant momentum. The development of the child friendly Leeds 'thumbs up' brand has created a strong and distinctive identity that partners can recognise and sign up to. Discussions with a growing number of business and organisations from all sectors are ongoing with a number of high profile pledges and initiatives underway or in development. On 19th July, to coincide with the visit of her Majesty the Queen, a significant Child Friendly Leeds launch event was staged, with partners from all sectors and elected members invited to City Varieties to see over 100 children and young people perform dance, drama and poetry celebrating children in the city. Hundreds more children and young people lined Briggate for the royal walkabout.
- 2.5 The current focus is on maintaining the momentum from this launch and a clear Child Friendly Leeds action plan is being developed with cross-council input and involvement. Elected members have an important part to play in supporting this work by raising the profile of the Child Friendly Leeds ambitions. There are more details on the Child Friendly Leeds pages of the Council website:
<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/Child-friendly-Leeds.aspx>

Developing an Integrated Service

- 2.6 To deliver the ambitions and priorities set out in the Children and Young people's Plan and as part of the wider, ongoing improvement work across Children's Services, the service is continuing to review and develop how we work, with a focus on creating more integrated services, better placed to target the specific needs of vulnerable children and families.
- 2.7 The restructure of children's services discussed in previous reports has progressed significantly over the past six months. The vast majority of staff have now been realigned or appointed within the new structure and this is increasingly being reflected in how local services work together. Of particular relevance to ward members are the changes that have taken place in how social care teams are now organised locally, which is helping to strengthen their links with schools and other services at cluster level. Equally, the implementation of the new targeted services leader roles across the city is helping to bring more co-ordination, consistency and focus to how local services work together and their ability to deliver improved outcomes.
- 2.8 The services is rolling out the implementation of tools that are helping to improve *how* we work with children, young people and families. So far in 2012 Leeds has re-launched the common assessment framework, following a major review of the process with support from national best practice leaders. The new system is simpler, faster and more flexible to use and is facilitating an increased usage of the process, though there is still much more work to do on the level and consistency of its usage.
- 2.9 This year Leeds has also launched the new Early Start teams, which integrate the work of health visiting and children's centre teams to create more holistic early years support. Significant work is also underway to roll out the much wider usage of Family Group Conferencing across the city, again building on national best practice. Family group Conferencing is a restorative approach that facilitates families coming together to identify their own solutions to issues causing concern. It has significant potential to enhance our early intervention approach across the city.
- 2.10 Leeds is also one of the leading authorities nationally in implementing the Families First initiative (Families First is the Leeds response to the government's Troubled Families initiative) which aims to support families to tackle issues such as worklessness, crime and anti-social behaviour, and poor school attendance.
- 2.11 Taken together, these initiatives reflect the emphasis being placed on better early intervention and targeted support across our services, each area of work is helping to shape the delivery of services locally, putting more emphasis on preventing issues from escalating to the point at which they require social care intervention.

Development of locality arrangements

- 2.12 Children Leeds Clusters have developed to be the basis for children's services locality working. They offer a basis for providing additional support to children, young people and families, facilitating timely intervention and appropriate escalation and de-escalation of support. Services are being structured to support the principles

of clusters arrangements, this relates to both Leeds City Council Children's Services and partner arrangements, such as the roll out of 'early start' teams with the NHS. Our approach is based on restorative principles with the notion of the team around the family.

- 2.13 The Bramley cluster is within the Inner West area committee with just over half of the ACES cluster population also being in this area committee. The cluster overviews for these are attached to this report and are available on the Leeds data observatory. These provide a broad understanding of outcomes and context by cluster.
- 2.14 Supporting the delivery of the priorities of the Leeds Children's and Young Peoples Plan within clusters will be **Targeted Services Leaders** (TSLs). They will work to a variety of cross cutting themes for the city including contributing to a restorative and child friendly city and minimising the effects of poverty on children and families in Leeds. Their particular focus will be on the children's services three "obsessions" In addition TSLs will support other locally identified cluster priorities which in a number of areas include obesity and teenage conceptions.
- 2.16 The vision to support each cluster through the provision of a LCC deployed TSL is supported and approved by The Children's Trust Board and Schools Forum. An agreement will be made with some clusters to provide an equivalent resource to enable a cluster to employ its own TSL, managed though a service level agreement. TSLs will support clusters by using the "top 100" methodology with TSLs being tasked to ensure that each family on the top 100 list benefits from
- A shared assessment (CAF or equivalent assessment)
 - Requisite team around the family
 - Lead family practitioner
 - Shared intervention plan
 - Team around the family communication strategy
- Where one or more elements are missing, TSLs should work to plug these gaps.
- 2.17 TSLs are tasked to ensure that robust "support and guidance" processes are in place that can provide appropriate local early intervention prior to onward requests to the Children's Social Work Teams. Where more specialist interventions are required TSLs will broker these arrangements, ensuring that these resources are appropriately targeted. In addition to directing to more specialist support TSLs will work closely with early start team leaders and cluster based social work teams to facilitate the de-escalation of social work cases and safely land those requests for services that have been received at the contact centre (Duty and Advice Team) which are not progressing to an initial social care assessment. The Area Targeted Services lead for the West North West Area is Jancis Andrew.
- 2.18 TSLs themselves will be supervised directly by **area targeted services managers** (when LCC employees). Where not directly employed by LCC, area managers will monitor the delivery of the service level agreement and provide support and challenge against the specification and agreed numerical targets. Leeds children's services are additionally investing senior officer time in each cluster through the provision of a local authority partner. The LAP for the ACES cluster is Anne Kearsley and for Bramley it is Wendy Winterburn.

- 2.19 To further support the improved outcomes by cluster, the **Children's Social Work teams** were re-organised on the 5th of March. The teams moved to a locality structure which links teams with clusters to develop improved relationships and opportunities for conversations between the teams and local professionals. The new arrangements are now in place and initial feedback from partners is that it has improved relationships and is working well. In addition to establishing locality teams the re-structuring of the social work teams established specialist Looked After Children's Teams. These teams will work in a dedicated and focussed manner to drive care plans for looked after children. This was a complete reorganisation of the service and involved the preparation and transfer of around three thousand cases and significant change, of team, location or manager, for almost half of all social workers employed in the children's social work teams.
- 2.20 The developing **Families First Leeds** process will be linked into the above locality working arrangements. In April 2012 the Department for Communities and Local Government announced that Leeds had been successful in securing funding to deliver the Troubled Families programme. Local data sets indicate that approximately 4,500 households fit at least 2 of the criteria set by the troubled families unit, and 43 households fit all four criteria (adult worklessness, persistent absence, youth offending, youth or adult anti-social behaviour). As part of the model established in Leeds, TSLs will also become responsible for identification of relevant families in their cluster who will become part of the Troubled Families cohort. A programme board has been established and the programme locally will be referred to as Families First Leeds.

Improvement and Inspection

- 2.21 Members will be aware of the continuing improvement journey that children's services has been on. The previous performance report to members highlighted the lifting of the government's improvement notice and the cessation of the Improvement Board as important steps forward in demonstrating increased confidence in Leeds' services. However, we recognise the importance of sustaining and improving on this progress in order to provide the consistently high standard of services we aspire to for all our children and young people. External focus will continue to be placed on Children's Services over the coming months and particularly on our safeguarding work.
- 2.21 In May 2012 Ofsted launched a new inspection framework for children's services. The new inspection framework focuses on safeguarding services and inspections, which usually last for two weeks are entirely unannounced. In these inspections, Ofsted will be seeking to follow the 'journey' of a child from needing help to the point at which help is received. There is also likely to be observations of practice, including of multi-agency meetings.
- 2.22 The new inspections are designed to make inspections more relevant to improving services for the protection of children and to inspect services from the perspective of the child. Amongst other things, inspections will evaluate:

§ the quality and timeliness of assessment and risk assessment;

- § the impact of the help given;
- § the focus on the interests of the child;
- § how well different agencies work together in the interests of the child ;
- § how meaningful, consistent and direct contact has been with the child and their family and;
- § how quality assurance and management oversight of practice assures decision making

Children's Services in Leeds are undertaking the necessary self-evaluation and preparation work to be ready for this inspection, but are doing through the ongoing processes of review and challenge work that the service regularly undertakes to monitor and improve practice. Members will be kept informed of any significant developments relating to this inspection.

3.0 Performance Update

3.1 This performance overview in this report presents:

- Data and commentary on current performance in the area committee. This is presented in appendix 1 and summarised below. This is a new approach to summarising performance, this report established baselines from which progress and direction of travel will be assessed in future reports.
- An overview of city level performance against Children's and Young People Plan Priorities, this is based on quarterly obsession updates and the half yearly progress against the remaining CYPP priorities. Inspection judgements of schools and children's centres are also included.
- For information attached to this report is the June Children and Young Peoples Plan dashboard. This is intended to provide the best in year regular updates on performance at city and children's cluster levels, accepting information is provisional. Also attached are Cluster overviews these are detailed statements of outcomes for each children's cluster area.

Inner West Commentary

3.2 This commentary is based on the data provided in appendix 1. The Inner West has 7% of the Leeds 0-19 population which represents just over 11,500 children and young people. They are served by 15 primary schools, 2 secondary and 4 children's centres.

3.3 **Children and Young People are Safe from Harm – Obsession Number of Children in Care**

At the end of June there were 169 Looked After Children from the Inner West area representing 12% of the Leeds total for Looked after Children. This compares to 11,581 children and young people in the Inner West. The numbers of Looked After Children have decreased from 171 the end of December 2011 to 169 at the end of June 2012. 16 common assessments were made in the first quarter (April to June) with 890 requests made to the social care duty and advice team of which 293 met the thresholds for being treated as a referral to social cares services. This

represents almost 10% of the Leeds totals for requests and requests meeting thresholds.

3.4 **Children and Young People Do Well at All Levels of Learning and Have the Skills for Life – Obsession Young People in Education Employment or Training**

Since the end of December 2011 the number of NEET young people has increased from 137 to 141 in June 2012. The Inner West rate at 8.4% is 1.4% above the Leeds average.

- Obsession Attendance

The attendance information presented is based on officially published information for half terms 1-2 of the academic year. Primary attendance for Inner West was 93.96% in autumn term 2010/11 and rose to 95.60% for the academic year just finished; this is similar to the Leeds average. Secondary attendance for Inner West improved from 90.2% in the autumn term 2010/11 to 91.6% in 2011/12 which is still almost 3% below the Leeds average. Expectations are that attendance improvements have been maintained over the academic year but may not be quite at the levels of the autumn term. In the Inner West 141 primary pupils missed at least 15% of school in the autumn term; this is 12% of the city cohort. At secondary 238 pupils missed at least 15% this is approaching 13% of the city total. These figures are based on school attended not home address.

3.5 **Children and Young People Choose Healthy Lifestyles**

Teenage conception levels are above the Leeds average level with 122 conceptions between June 2009 and June 2010 compared to the average of 115. Free school meal take up in primary schools at 75.1% is close to the Leeds average of 76.9%.

Secondary school free school meal take up at 71.5% is above the Leeds average of 68.9%. 84 10-17 years olds committed an offence in the Inner West between April 2011 and March 2012 this was 8.7% of the Leeds total.

3.6 **Local Ofsted Inspections**

Of the 15 primary schools in the Inner West 7 are rated as good or better and none are inadequate. This gives a rate of 47% good or better, well below the city average of 69%. 1 of the secondary schools in the area is rated as good, the other as satisfactory. Two of the 4 children's centres in the area committee inspected to date are rated good; 1 of the children's homes inspected is rated as good and 2 as adequate.

City Commentary

Children and Young People are Safe from Harm

3.7 Reducing the need for children to come into care is one the three 'Obsessions' of the CYP. The indicator measuring progress against this obsession is the number of looked after children (appendix 3). **The number of children in care** in June 2012 is at its 2nd lowest point in the last 12 months, and is 2.9% lower than the 2011-12 year-end figure of 1,475. The number of children in care remained stable for three-quarters of the 2011-12, but then rose between November 2011 and March 2012. During that period the social work teams were undergoing a major restructure

The new locality structure is now settling down and the number of looked after children has fallen each month since the end of April..

- 3.8 An analysis of the children becoming looked after between the 1st of January and the 31st of March 2012 highlighted ongoing changes in the age profile; of the 103 children that became looked after in that period 46 were under one year of age and 70 were under 5 years of age. A preliminary review of the data on the cases involving children under one year of age indicates that parental drug or alcohol misuse; mental health problems or learning disabilities and domestic violence were issues in over half of cases.
- 3.9 Providing good outcomes for looked after children is underpinned by matching the child or young person with a placement that is appropriate to their needs. At the end of March 2012 almost a quarter of looked after children (22.5%) were being supported to live within their birth family or extended family (Placed with Parents or Kinship Care). This is consistent with the Council's aim to keep children within their families. Just over half of looked after children (57.6%) are placed with foster carers with a further 3.9% being placed with prospective adoptive parents.
- 3.10 Improving the recruitment of **foster carers** is a significant target for Children's Services. Recruitment and retention will be the key focus as part of the Child Friendly City initiative. A comprehensive communications strategy has been implemented to attract families in Leeds to foster for the council including a new web site (<http://www.foster4leeds.co.uk/fostering/foster-for-leeds/>). Elected members play an important role in supporting the work of the fostering service through membership of foster panels and by promoting foster care. Promotional activity to date has resulted in a significant increase in the registrations of interest to become a foster carer. In 2010/11, on average the service received 16 expressions of interest per month from this has increased to an average of 48 per month in 2011/12 with a peak in March 2012 of 109.
- 3.11 The number of children placed for **adoption** in Leeds has increased. In March 2012, the Department for Education announced the introduction of 'Adoption Scorecards'. The scorecards use three key indicators of timeliness to assess the performance of local authorities. Leeds is close to the England average for all three indicators and compares well against statistical neighbours and core cities.
- 3.12 Ensuring that vulnerable and potentially vulnerable children receive support at the earliest opportunity will prevent the need for more intensive services. Professor David Thorpe was commissioned to undertake a review of **referral arrangements** in Leeds. In response to Professor Thorpe's recommendations arrangements for receiving referrals have been changed to ensure that professionals contacting the centre are able to talk directly to a social worker. The number of social workers has been increased and a direct line established for professionals. Although the new arrangements were only fully implemented in May the new practices may have impacted on the number of contacts that progressed to become referrals in April as these were the lowest in over twelve months. It is not anticipated that the numbers of contacts (requests for service) will reduce rather that by improving the quality of information and advice, essentially the conversations with professionals, more children will be supported without the need for a social care referral.

- 3.13 The **Common Assessment** was developed for use by all agencies working with children and families where they are concerned that a child may be vulnerable or potentially vulnerable. The number of common assessments undertaken in Leeds decreased by 24% in 2011/12. This reflected national policy changes in relation to the common assessment and reports from some partners that the Leeds format and process were too complex. In response a fundamental review of the common assessment was undertaken informed by support and advice by national leaders on CAF implementation. A simplified common assessment process and record was introduced at the beginning of April. Since that date up to the 26th of June 227 Common Assessments had been completed. This compares with 182 in the same period in 2011.
- 3.14 Data is also provided on the number of children and young people on a **Child Protection Plans** (CPP). Up to August 2011 (1174) improvements to safeguarding practice had led to a sustained increase in the number of children subject to a child protection plan, this has since fallen back to 860 at the end of May. This decrease is based on continuing efforts to ensure robust practice and effective intervention; impacting both on our ability to de-register children given the reduction in risk and to reduce the numbers reaching the level of risk where a CPP is appropriate.

Children and Young People Do Well at All Levels of Learning and Have the Skills for Life

- 3.15 With **school attendance** the latest data which includes comparisons with other authorities was released in mid June. It covers half terms 1-2 2011/12. Attendance in Leeds primary schools improved by 1.1 percentage points compared to the 2010/11 academic year and was in-line with both the national and statistical neighbour averages. The Leeds local authority rank has improved into the top half of authorities nationally. Attendance in secondary schools is now at its highest level since records began, increasing by 1.7% compared to 2010/11. Attendance remains lower than nationally and in comparable authorities but the gap has narrowed as the rate of improvement in Leeds is greater than elsewhere. The majority of the improvement in attendance has been achieved through a reduction in authorised absence. Rates of unauthorised absence are improving but are a key challenge. As is persistent absence, (pupils missing more than 15% of school). There were 1,941 (4.4%) persistent absentees in primary and 2,996 (7.7%) in secondary during the autumn term. Cluster efforts continue to through OBA turning the curve events and plan and through local targeting of support to children and families where low attendance is causing concerns. Schools and service are prioritising attendance in their practice. Provisional local information for the school year (half terms 1-5) is indicating good improvements in attendance with record attendance levels at both primary and secondary.
- 3.16 At the end of June there were 1603 **NEET** young people in Leeds (7.0%). This is the “adjusted NEET” figure including some young people whose actual status is not known, but who are assumed to be NEET. The comparative national data from May 2012 shows that although NEET levels remain higher than national, between January and May 2012 in the Leeds NEET rate fell faster than national by one percentage point compared to a fall of 0.2 percentage points nationally. Levels of

young people whose status is not known (10.0%) remain higher than national levels (8.9%). The 11-19 (25) Learning and Support Partnership (LSP) have identified reducing the number of young people whose status is not known as a key priority. The Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) means that young people will remain in education or training for an additional academic year after Year 11 from September 2013 and until age 18 from September 2015. The May rate of young people in learning (79.4%) is slightly below the national level of 80.3%.

- 3.17 Increasingly schools are assuming a key role in ensuring young people make a successful transition from Key Stage 4 into post 16 learning or training. As part of this schools are taking on new duties to deliver impartial information, advice and careers guidance to young people from September 2012. A number of schools have purchased services using the approved list of careers guidance providers. A careers/ IAG network lead professional role has been advertised through the Leeds Learning Partnership to develop more peer-to-peer support for schools.
- 3.18 Work has started to identify priority NEET groups and their support needs, along with existing planned provision and gaps, with a view to commissioning activity to start in September 2012 as part of the Youth Contract funding awarded as part of Leeds' City Deal..
- 3.19 Information on achievement at 19 is published in April for the previous year. In 2011 4,728 young people in Leeds achieved a **level 3 qualification by age 19**. This is an improvement of 4.6 percentage points compared to the 2010 result with now over half of young people reaching this level at 51.3%. Leeds is improving faster than national and statistical neighbours but remains below the national level. While a higher proportion of young people who were eligible for school meals (FSM) achieved a Level 3 qualification in 2011 the gap to their peers who were not FSM-eligible widened by two percentage points to 29%pts. There are a number of factors likely to impact on post-16 provision that could impact on future performance at level 3. For example, changes to the 16-19 funding system, coupled with reductions in 16-19 learner numbers due to demographic changes, will mean major reductions in funding for most Leeds schools and colleges from next year.
- 3.20 For the period August 2011 to April 2012 1716 16-18 year olds started **apprenticeships in Leeds**. This compares to 1,594 for the same period 12 months previous a 7.7% increase. Work with the National Apprenticeship Service is ongoing including promoting of the apprenticeship option. There are good examples of the local promotion of apprenticeships including schools, colleges and employers. Plans have been drawn up for the council to partner Leeds City College to establish an Apprenticeship Training Agency, to create new opportunities for local young people to secure employment and skills training.

Children and Young People Choose Healthy Lifestyles

- 3.21 Rates of teenage conception rates citywide continue to reduce with a conception rate of 42.2 per 1000 15-17 year old females in March 2011. This is a 3 year rolling average that has declined from 46.6 in March 2010. Data is made available on a 14

month delay. This equates to 536 Under 18 conceptions in from April 2010 to March 2011 this compares to 608 for the period April 2009 to March 2010. Higher teenage conception rates are a characteristic of large urban areas and Leeds has the third lowest rate of the UK's core cities although Leeds rates are 8%points higher than the overall England rate. What works is an approach that combines city and local effort and the contribution of partners with no single intervention seeming to be effective in isolation.

- 3.22 Primary **school meal take up** in Leeds for the financial year 2011-12 is 46.5% this is a slight increase on the previous year and in line with national levels. At secondary school take up is 35.2% slightly below national levels of 39.8%. This information is no longer compulsory for local authorities or schools to provide, caution is therefore advised. While Leeds responses remain high nationally a significant proportion of secondary schools are not included. With Free School Meals there was a 76.9% take up in primary schools similar to the previous year. At secondary FSM take up has improved slightly to 68.9%. These numbers highlight nearly a quarter at primary and a third of free school meals at secondary are not taken. Reasons for low FSM take-up are complex and there are also concerns about low take-up by families who pay for school meals, especially in inner city primary and secondary schools. Priorities are to raise awareness about the importance of school meals to pupils, families, headteachers, and frontline practitioners, in order to establish a sustainable school meal service that meets health and cultural needs.

Children and Young People are active citizens who feel they have a voice and influence

- 3.23 The number of **10-17 year olds committing one or more offence** is continuing to fall; over the last five years it has fallen from 2,484 offenders in 2007/08 to 1353 in 2010/11 and then 958 offenders in 2011/12. Similarly offences have fallen from 2476 in 2010/11 to 1825 in 2011/12.

Ofsted inspections

- 3.24 Ofsted inspection regimes are continuing to develop and provide additional challenge, raising the bar, across children's services provision. Appendix 1 provides a list of inspections by area committee. Ofsted uses 4 ratings Outstanding, Good, Satisfactory and Inadequate. For schools last category inadequate will include schools with a notice to improve and those placed in the more serious category of special measures.
- 3.25 For inspections on the Ofsted website as at the end of June 52% of Leeds secondary schools were rated as good or better with 2 inadequate, one in special measures and one with a notice to improve. At a city level this was similar to December results accepting that a school level some categories have changes e.g. Swallow Hill no longer has a notice to improve has since entered John Smeaton has entered special measures.
- 3.26 For primary schools at December 2011 68% were rated as good or better with 1 of 218 schools having a notice to improve, this school has since been removed from

this category. As of the end of June 69% of primaries are good or better with two schools now having received a notice to improve.

3.27 At December 2011 20 children's centres had been inspected with 16 rated as good or better. By the end of June 26 had now been inspected with rate of good or better maintained at 81%. None are inadequate.

3.28 Local Authority children's homes are residential provision for Looked After Children these receive annual full inspections and 6 month interim inspections. At the end of June 36% of 11 homes were rated as good or better but none were inadequate. The percentage where the judgement of quality of care is good or better is higher. In December 2011 45% were good or better. Revised approaches to inspection from the end of March are being responded to as part of a wider review work on ensuring we have the appropriate provision in the city for this vulnerable group of children and young people.

4.0 Corporate Considerations

4.1 There are no corporate considerations in this report.

5.0 Consultation and Engagement

5.1 This report is going to Area Committees meeting which involve a wide range of partners and stakeholders. Consultation and engagement is integral to the work of Children's Service and the Children's Trust as evidenced in Child Friendly City work.

6.0 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

6.1 Equality issues are implicit in the information provided in this report. The differences shown at a ward level for many of the above data illustrate that there are hotspots across the city for many of the issues discussed relating to the lifestyles and outcomes for children and young people.

7.0 Council Policies and City Priorities

7.1 A significant proportion of the information included in this report relates to the City Priorities for children and young people and the outcomes contained in the Children and Young People Plan 2011-15.

8.0 Resources and Value for Money

8.1 There are no resource implications in this report.

9.0 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

9.1 This report is not eligible for call in, due to being a Council function.

10.0 Risk Management

11.1 There are no risk management implications in this report. The priorities reflected in this report are monitored through Leeds City Council performance and where appropriate risk management processes.

11.0 Conclusions

12.1 Not applicable as this report is information based.

12.0 Recommendations

13.1 Area Committees are requested to note the content of this report.

13.2 Area Committees are asked for feedback on the type and extent of performance information provided including the reporting schedule outlined in appendix 1.

14.0 Appendices

- Inner West Area Committee Data and Commentary
- Cluster Overviews for Inner West Area Committee
- Children's CYPP monthly dashboard for June
- Map of Cluster to Area committees