

Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 11th October 2012

Subject: Foundation Years - providing the best start in life for Children to succeed – Session 2

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

1.0 Purpose of this report

- 1.1 At its meeting on the 20th 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 Terms of reference were agreed by the Scrutiny Board on the 23rd of August 2012 and the first session of the inquiry was conducted on the 27th of September 2012.

2.0 Submission of evidence – October Meeting

2.1 In accordance with the terms of reference the Scrutiny Board requested information on the following areas:

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.

2.2 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 are listed below for the information of the Scrutiny Board (Children and Families):

- 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.

3.0 Evidence

Representatives from Children's Services and NHS Airedale Bradford and Leeds will be attending this inquiry session. Supporting information has been provided which is appended as follows:

- Appendix A – The report of the Director of Childrens Service
- Appendix B – Reducing inequalities in infant mortality in Leeds
- Appendix C – Preparation for Birth and Beyond
- Appendix D - Family Nurse Partnership Report

- Appendix E – Infant Mental Health Services

4 Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

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

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration.

- 4.2.1 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.
- 4.2.2 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.
- 4.2.3 The Scrutiny Board may engage and involve interested groups and individuals (both internal and external to the council) to inform recommendations.
- 4.2.4 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 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.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

None

4.6 Risk Management

None

4.7 Recommendations

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

- 4.7.1 Note the information contained within this report, and consider the information appended to this report and presented to the Board on the 11th of October 2012.
- 4.7.2 Make recommendations as deemed appropriate.
- 4.7.3 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.

4.8 Background documents¹

None

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.