



Leeds Education Challenge Board

Date of meeting:	19 th October 2012
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Report title:	

Summary:

This report provides an overview to LEC Board of the key issues considered and acted on by the 0-11 Partnership board since its inception in March 2012.

Main issues for future consideration have emerged:

- Attendance in the early years;
- Sufficiency of places, particularly the increase in places for some 2 year olds;
- Narrowing the attainment gap, to be considered for action planning in January.

Recommendations:

The LEC Board are asked to consider and note the contents of the report and to take regular updates on the work around attendance, sufficiency of 2 year old places, and narrowing the gap.

1. Purpose of report

This report provides an overview to LEC Board of the key issues considered and acted on by the 0-11 Partnership board since its inception in March 2012.

The 0—11 Partnership Board fulfils the following duties:

- To ensure the local authority fulfils it’s statutory requirements with regard to the Early Years Outcomes Duty;
- To consider and advise the LEC Board around sufficiency issues around 0-11 years;
- To consider and advise the LEC Board around assessment outcomes from statutory assessment processes 0-11 years;
- To review support for Newly Qualified Teachers on behalf of the local authority for primary schools;
- To support and take recommendations from the Children’s Trust Board work for priority action.



- To implement work streams in response to specific needs and areas of work.

2. Background information

The 0-11 Partnership Board has, in the last six months:

- Identified terms of reference;
- Identified and invited a broad range of partners to attend the Board including health, private and voluntary sector providers, elected members, head teachers, Children's Centre managers and Area Inclusion Partners;
- Planned and annual timetable of meetings and forward work plan.

The Board has received data and information around attendance, attainment, services for complex needs and disability, Ofsted outcomes for school and early years providers, the revised Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum, welfare and benefit reforms, uptake of free school meals, changes to the Free Early Education Entitlement.

Main issues for future consideration have emerged:

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3. Main issues

Attendance of early education.

Data was received around attendance patterns 0-11. The vast majority of children in Leeds attend early years settings and school regularly without the need for any additional or targeted support. There are year on year improvements, however we are aware that attendance overall is lower in the foundation and reception years, increasing over time to the highest point in year 6. Also some areas of the city have a significantly lower take up of the free early entitlement offer than other areas. The following vulnerable groups are less likely to take up free nursery education entitlement:

- children from Bangladeshi, Somali, Roma, Gypsy, Polish families and children of refugees, travellers, and asylum seekers from all areas;
- poor white children from areas of persistent worklessness;
- children at risk from parents with drug or alcohol dependency;
- children of disabled parents;
- children where there is domestic violence and safeguarding issues before they become known to LCC;
- children with special educational needs.



An OBA event took place in August inviting a number of partners to work together to focus on improving attendance of early education and other services 0-11 years. This has identified an action plan across a range of partners raising awareness around the value of good attendance in the early years, using information from birth, support for families less likely attend, further interrogation of data around attendance and increase awareness amongst staff of the importance of attendance in the early years.

Sufficiency of places, particularly the increase in places for some 2 year olds.

Leeds has piloted work since 2006 to provide personalised packages of support for disadvantaged two years old and their families. In November 2010 the government announced that the entitlement of 15 hours free nursery education would be gradually extended to all disadvantaged two year olds by 2014.

In 2012/13, Leeds Children's Services agreed to fund 632 places to build towards projected numbers by 2014/15 using revised criteria indicated by the Government including an entitlement for LAC and those eligible through the Free Schools Meal criteria and importantly for Leeds children subject to a care plan. This number of places will grow to over 2,000 places in 2014, and possibly up to 40% of 2 year olds, over 4,000 places.

The growth in number of disadvantaged two year olds accessing places requires consideration and planning. Funding for 2 year olds will be ring fenced within the Direct Schools Grant from 2013.

The local authority will need to stimulate the overall provider market for 2 to 4 year olds in order to absorb this additional need for places and the likelihood that we will improve take up for 3-4 year olds as a consequence of this initiative.

Options include:

- building on the good practice in other areas of the city where community led childcare provision has been developed and is serving the needs of families in those communities;
- increasing capacity with existing providers through structural alterations to buildings and premises to increase the number of childcare places where appropriate, a small capital allocation has been identified by the government in 2013;
- increasing capacity for 3-4 year olds in the maintained sector to release places in the PVI for 2 year olds. There are some surplus places in the maintained sector, which with careful planning can be addressed.

To deliver 2300 places by 2014, and up to 5000 places thereafter is likely to require significant development and further stimulation of the market. There is an urgent need to agree the profiling and speed of the increased number of places across Leeds.

Narrowing the attainment gap;



The 'gap' indicator at Early Years Foundation Stage is derived by calculating the difference between the median score of the full cohort and the mean score of the lowest achieving 20% percent of the cohort. The challenge to local authorities is to improve outcomes for the lowest achieving children at a faster rate than the average child in order to close the gap. The figures for Leeds showed a small but steady improvement from 2009-2011 and the improvement has accelerated in 2012, but the gap in Leeds figure 2012 is still wider than the national gap in 2011. Because of the year on year increase in the good level of achievement it is difficult to narrow the low achievers gap. However real improvement in outcomes for lower achievers is demonstrated by the average FSP score of the lowest 20% increasing by just under 3 points to 59.1 scale points. Results for boys, children with identified special needs on School Action and School Action plus, and looked after children have all improved more than the overall figure since 2009.

In 2011 there were only 10 local authorities (LAs) with a larger gap indicator than Leeds. A keen focus around narrowing the attainment gap is required over the next few years.

4. Implications for governance, policy, resources, CYPP outcomes

There are specific implications around the changes to funding around 2 year olds, namely the shift of the budget from Early Intervention Grant to Dedicated Schools Grant from 2013 creates significant budget pressures on presently funded services.

5. Relationship to other partnership activity

The work of the 0-11 Board is closely aligned to a number of work streams, namely the roll out of **Early Start teams**, integrated health visiting and Childrens centre cluster based teams, the **LAC Task and Finish Group** looking to reduce the number of children becoming looked after, the **Teenage Pregnancy Board, TaMHS steering groups** and **Healthy Schools Steering group**, and **Child Poverty Board**.

Background documents:

Foundation Years - providing the best start in life for children to succeed-September report.