

Meeting: Children's Trust Board - 5 November 2012

Population: All children and young people in Leeds

Outcome 1: Children and Young People are safe from harm

Priority 1: **Obsession** Help children to live in safe and supportive families

LCC lead: Steve Walker

CTB lead: Jane Held and Bridget Emery

Why is this a priority: Outcomes for children are better when they are able to live safely within their own family and community. The high numbers of looked after children in Leeds affects the resources available to provide preventative services to support children to live safely within their families.

Amber ↑

RAG: Numbers remain high, but lower than 12 months ago **Direction of travel** Evidence of improved service arrangements and of partnership working within clusters

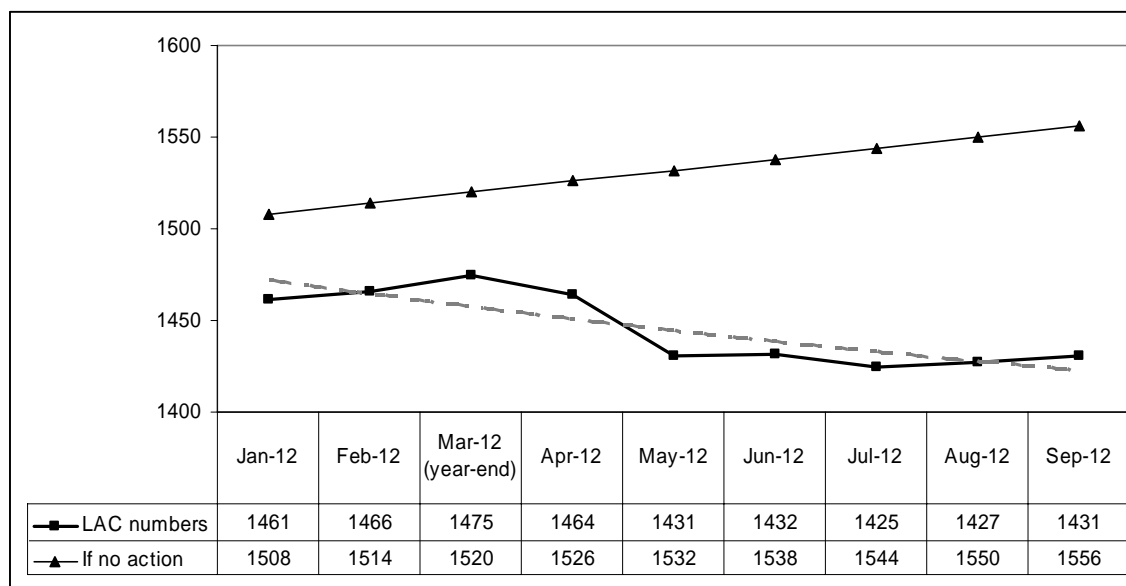
Story behind the baseline

Curve: Reduce the number of looked after children

The number of looked after children has dropped by 44 (3%) since the end of the 2011-12 financial year, with September 2012's figure 21 lower (1.4%) than the same month last year.

There has been a significant change in the age of children becoming looked after, with 65% of care starters in the first six months of 2012 being aged under five. This has implications for service planning.

There has only been a limited change in the overall age profile of looked after children, with a change in the proportion of looked after children who are aged under five from 30% in September 2011 to 32% in September 2012. This is explained by the overall age profile of our current looked after population, which is predominantly over five, and the fact that care planning for young children is more driven with a quarter of care leavers in the first six months of 2012 being aged under five.



The downward trend in the number of external residential or independent fostering agency placements continues; there are currently 18 fewer external placements (a decrease of 17.5%) than at the end of 2011-12 financial year.

What do children and young people think The Children's Social Work Service is working with Barnardo's to explore how the voice and influence of looked after children can be strengthened across the service. The voice of children and young people is embedded in service practice especially around reviews.

<p>What we have done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 95 more contacts (3.7%) were received in September 2012 than September 2011. However, the 'front door' arrangements implemented by the Duty and Advice Team - holding conversations with callers about who is best placed to meet children's needs - saw 343 fewer referrals (a 28% decrease) to Children's Social Work Service when comparing September 2012 and September 2011. • Detailed work led by the chief officer and senior managers within Children's Social Work Service has led to fewer external residential placements, ensuring that children and young people are provided with alternative placements, or achieve permanence. • Independent reviewing officers meet/observe children and young people before looked after children reviews take place, to ensure children and young people are able to participate in, and influence, their reviews. • A foster carer recruitment drive and increased publicity campaign has led to a rise in expressions of interest; a rise in the number of home visits to prospective foster carers; and a steady rise in foster carer approvals. The service has seen a year-on-year net increase in the number of foster carers. • Luttrell Crescent children's home received an outstanding rating in all categories of its Ofsted inspection in July 2012. The service has a target for all of its children's homes to be rated as good or outstanding by 2015. • The Children's Social Work Service restructure is complete and is becoming embedded. Although still early days, the indications are that it is beginning to have an impact on performance and working relationships. • The Youth Service has representatives on children's panel and the Families First initiative. Vulnerable young people are referred for one-to-one and group work to engage them in youth work and learning activities. In Beeston and Holbeck, there are currently 30 referrals (made through clusters, social workers and schools) for a group set up to deal with sensitive issues of neglect, grooming, and drug abuse. 	<p>New actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A social worker is now located at Millgarth Police Station to work with the Police on referrals where there are concerns about domestic violence. • Work is underway with Health and the Police to co-locate colleagues from these agencies in the Duty and Advice Team. • A recruitment process to fill the remaining senior management posts in Children's Social Work Service is underway. It is anticipated that these posts will be filled in the coming months. • The service's restructure was completed six months ago. A review of progress so far is underway, which will ensure that the structure is facilitating increased and improved working in clusters, and that safeguarding and preventative work is decreasing the need for children to be taken into care. • A further expansion of the Multi-Systemic Therapy service is planned, with funding from the Families First initiative. This would allow for additional recruitment, and an increase in the available service to children on the edge of care or custody. • The Youth Service group work model is set up to achieve outcomes to support young people to remain safe. This group work approach will be reviewed, and the model will be replicated across south east Leeds as a preventative measure of targeting specific young people with additional needs and support.
<p>What works locally</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing numbers of children exiting care through better focus on adoption, Special Guardianship Orders, supporting older children into independence, and re-visiting plans for children looked after under voluntary agreements with parents. 	<p>Data development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National comparator data for 2011-12 will be available in the Autumn, allowing the service a chance to benchmark against other authorities.
<p>Partners with a role to play Children and young people, parents, schools, health visitors, family outreach workers, police, voluntary, faith, and community sectors, childcare services, youth offending services, drug and alcohol services, probation, adult services, housing, media, business, general practitioners, transport services, mental health services (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services).</p>	

Children's Trust – Children and Young People's Plan Report Cards Q2 2012-13

Meeting: Children's Trust Board - 5 November 2012
Outcome 2: Children and young people do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life
LCC lead: Paul Brennan

Population: Pupils in Leeds schools (Years 1-11)
Priority 3a: **Obsession** Improve behaviour, attendance and achievement
CTB lead: Keith Gilert and Matthew Ward

Why is this an obsession There are strong links between attendance, attainment, being NEET and youth offending. Particular pupil groups who experience multiple poor outcomes are more likely to have poor attendance, e.g., those living in deprived areas; looked after children; pupils eligible for free school meals; pupils with special education needs and some BME groups.

Primary Green
Secondary Amber



RAG: Improving ratings against national and statistical neighbour averages **Direction of travel:** Local efforts embedding with evidence of impact

Story behind the baseline

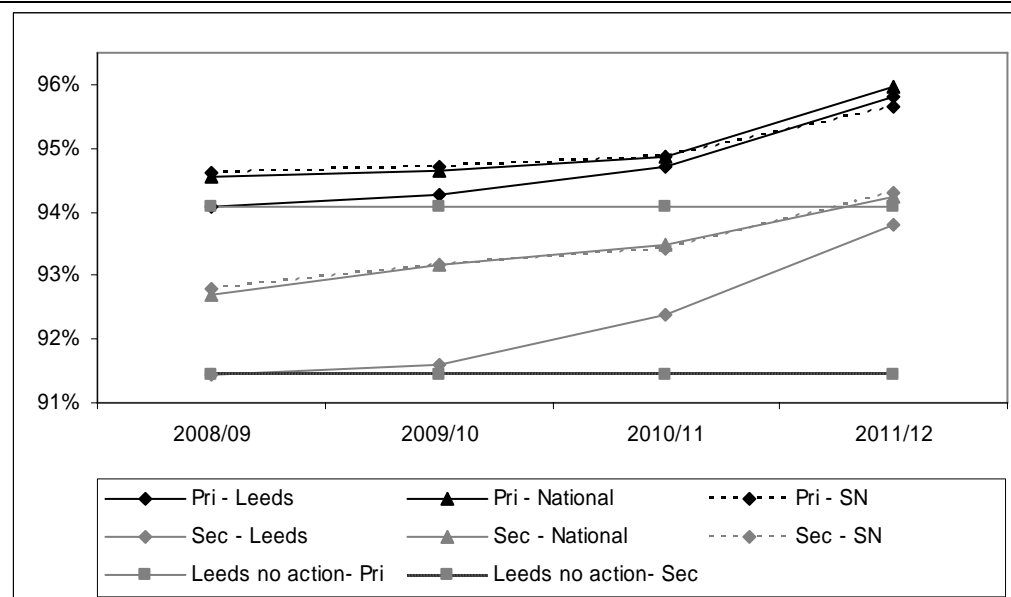
Curve: School attendance rates¹

During the course of the last academic year, schools in Leeds made substantial improvements in overall attendance rates. This is as a result of schools, council and voluntary services working in partnership to tackle poor attendance together in their locality. They are doing this through regular, multi-agency meetings to co-ordinate and plan support for individual children and families as well as delivering locality-wide interventions that address problems such as mental health, domestic violence, unemployment, crime and anti-social behaviour.

Attendance in Leeds primary schools improved by 1.1 percentage points in 2011/12, more than double the improvement seen in 2010/11. Attendance in Leeds primary schools is now above national and statistical neighbours and Leeds is now ranked in the top quartile for primary attendance.

There was also an improvement of 1.4 percentage points in secondary attendance during 2011/12 and this is now at the highest level ever. Attendance remains lower in Leeds than nationally and in statistical neighbour authorities, but the gap has narrowed and Leeds ranks =121 of 150 local authorities.

7.9% of pupils in Leeds secondary schools missed more than 15% of school in 2011/12. This is a significant reduction from levels of persistent absence in 2010/11 and the rate of improvement was greater in Leeds than nationally and in statistical neighbours. Levels of persistent absence remain higher in Leeds, but the gap has narrowed in 2011/12. However, Leeds remains in the bottom quartile of authorities for this measure. Secondary unauthorised absence is more than three times the rate in Leeds primary schools and accounts for around half of all secondary absence. While reductions over time have been seen, this rate is still higher than national and statistical neighbour levels, so addressing unauthorised absence remains a key part of improving overall attendance.



¹ Most recent data available is half-terms 1-4 2011/12. Data for all previous years in the graph is also half-terms 1-4.

<p>What do children and young people think As part of local research undertaken into the reasons for persistent absence, young people told us that the key factors in absence are: problems at home and with parents; issues with the curriculum and lessons; and bullying was also mentioned as a factor. Groups such as young carers had particular issues affecting their school attendance.</p>	
<p>What we have done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of the targeted services leader (TSL) role across the city is helping to bring more consistency and focus to how local services work together to tackle issues such as poor school attendance. TSLs are in now in place either through a Leeds City Council appointed staff member, or through cluster-agreed arrangements, in all but three clusters. TSLs have met with attendance officers in their clusters to agree local priorities. • Local decision-making through guidance and support meetings has been effective in freeing up attendance officer time so that they can focus their expertise on doing some whole-school improvement work. This positive development is a consequence of cluster staff ‘thinking family,’ so that where a family present with poor attendance, among other issues, it is not always an attendance officer who takes on the lead professional role. • Work has started on actions identified through the 0-11 Partnership Board’s OBA session on attendance. For example, communications are being developed for use by family outreach workers and other children’s centre staff around working with parents to establish good attendance patterns before starting school; with a focus on both the free early education entitlement at children’s centres and also on attendance at NHS appointments. Support materials are also being developed for use by childminders and PVI childcare settings to reinforce the positive message about attendance before children make the transition to school. • The Youth Service have supported young people with attendance and behaviour difficulties through two ‘Aspiration’ groups run at South Leeds Youth Hub. 	<p>New actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leeds is one of the leading authorities nationally in implementing the Families First initiative (the Leeds response to the government’s Troubled Families programme) which aims to support families to tackle issues such as worklessness, crime and anti-social behaviour, and poor school attendance. As part of this model, TSLs will identify relevant families in their clusters who will be part of the Families First cohort and persistent absence will be one of the criteria used. • An action identified in the Closing the Gap strand of the Leeds Education Challenge is to improve rates of attendance for BME, SEN and FSM pupils across primary and secondary so that they are in line with the national rates of attendance for these groups by 2014. • As part of Child Friendly Leeds activity, there are plans to engage businesses in sponsoring schemes to promote good attendance, as well as using businesses who have pledged support for Child Friendly Leeds to become involved in mentoring schemes to improve attendance. • Further actions being progressed as part of the 0-11 Partnership Board’s OBA action plan include: children under 5 with child protection plans having attendance at children’s centres as part of their plans; attendance officers broadening their remit to include 0-5 work; and parents receiving information right from when a child is newborn about early years and school attendance. • From January 2013 the delivery of parenting programmes will be targeted at parents where there is a specific need to improve attendance.
<p>What works locally</p> <p>Strategies to improve attendance are most successful where these are based on working holistically with a family to address all of their support needs, rather than seeing attendance in isolation. Guidance and support meetings enable such holistic responses to be developed.</p>	<p>Data development</p> <p>Attendance data is already included in the monthly ‘CYPP dashboard’ that is widely circulated throughout the partnership. This term work will begin to look at circulating attendance data more frequently, to raise awareness about this obsession.</p>
<p>Partners with a role to play</p> <p>Children and young people, parents, schools, health visitors, family outreach workers, police, VCFS, childcare services, community groups, drug and alcohol services, probation, adult services, housing services, IAG providers, media, business, Chamber of Commerce, GPs, transport services.</p>	

Meeting: Children's Trust Board - 5 November 2012
Outcome 2: Children and young people do well at all levels of learning and have the skills for life
LCC lead: Paul Brennan

Population: Young people of academic age 16, 17 and 18 (age on 31 Aug)
Priority 4a: **Obsession** Increase numbers in employment, education or training (EET)
CTB lead: Martin Fleetwood and Alison France

Why is this an obsession Being in EET increases young people's confidence, prospects and economic independence and therefore supports the city's overall economic performance. By targeting groups and areas where NEET is a particular challenge, we can raise aspirations and prospects for young people who often have multiple poor outcomes. The current economic downturn presents challenges for young people looking to enter the workplace for the first time.

Amber ↑

RAG: Third quartile performance **Direction of travel:** Good partnership progress in reducing NEET levels

Story behind the baseline

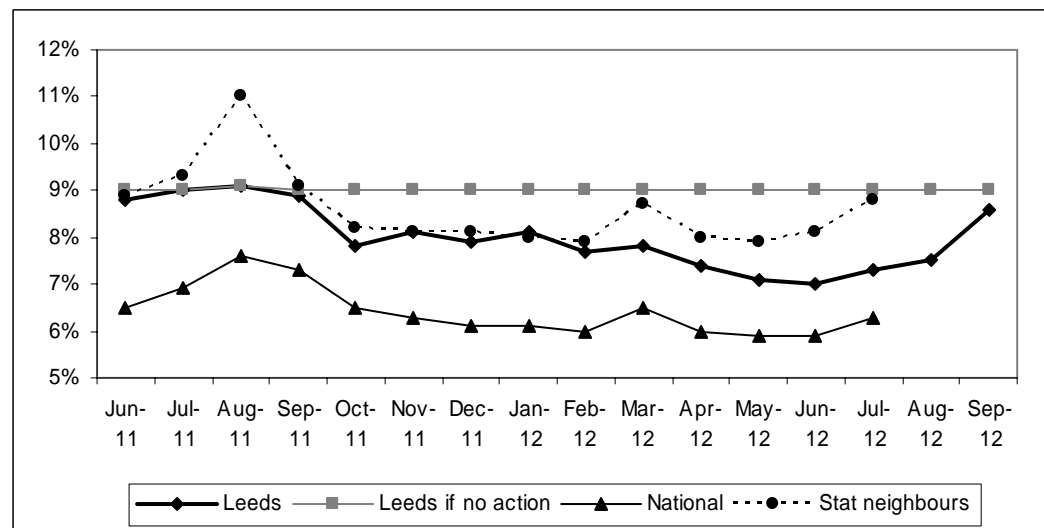
Curve: Percentage of young people who are NEET (Jun 11 – Sep 12)

At the end of September there were 1691 NEET young people in Leeds (8.6%). This is the "adjusted NEET" figure including some young people whose actual status is not known, but who are assumed to be NEET. National comparative data (available up to July) shows that although NEET levels remain higher than national, the gap has fallen to one percentage point, compared to 2.1 percentage points in July 2011. Leeds' position nationally in July was in the third quartile of 148 local authorities.

Nationally NEET levels tend to rise each September as this is when Year 11 leavers join the Year 12 to Year 14 cohort and some learners will not yet have secured a place in further learning. This issue has been complicated this year by the additional dialogue with colleges to move young people affected by the GCSE English grading issue onto appropriate provision. Data on the rate of young people whose status is not known is not yet available for this period and an update will be provided next quarter.

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. Planning to reduce the number of young people who are NEET will therefore concentrate on increasing the number of young people in education or training. The July rate of young people in learning (79.8%) was slightly above the national level of 76.8%.

Some young people are statistically more likely to be NEET, e.g. some BME groups, those with learning difficulties and disabilities, care leavers, young offenders, poor school attenders, those attending the BESD SILC, PRUs or off-site learning, young parents, young carers, pregnant young women, homeless young people and those living away from their family. NEET rates also vary significantly across the city. Targeted and specialist support for young people in these groups, delivered by Prospects, igen and voluntary, community and faith sector partners, provides support for the most vulnerable young people from these groups who



have specific barriers to engagement in EET that require specialist knowledge and/or interventions.

What do children and young people think 'Careers' is one of the priorities identified by young people for making Leeds a Child Friendly City. You people have come up with a number of suggestions as to how schools could improve careers education, including: starting careers education earlier; linking the knowledge and skills developed in lessons to how they can be used in work or living independently; and organising visits from A-level students or university students for younger pupils.

What we have done

- Supported schools with their new statutory duty to secure independent careers guidance for pupils in Year 9-11. Ongoing support is continuing to be provided, including a Careers and IAG Network and specialist briefing sessions for heads of sixth form. Schools are being encouraged to discuss with the local authority how they will collaborate on tracking young people, NEET prevention and targeted support for vulnerable young people.
- Developed a blended learning offer as part of the IAG workforce development project (professional development activities to expand IAG signposting skills for the wider children and young people's workforce) of online training and a taught session.
- Building on cluster-led work, there has been further locality engagement with NEET prevention, as area management teams have been given a responsibility for reducing the number of young people who are NEET in their areas.
- An RPA project is taking place with off-site learning providers whose learners achieved a 100% success rate at transition from off-site learning to post-16 destinations, to develop a good practice toolkit to increase the likelihood of Year 11 off-site learners progressing in learning, training or employment post-16. Learning providers will start to be trained on using the toolkit from November.

New actions

- Youth Contract Funding will be used to enable access for 16 and 17 year olds who are NEET to support such as a key worker; mentoring from business or peer mentoring; a work placement or volunteering opportunity; or support with employability and interview skills.
- Leeds City Council is currently in a procurement process for the delivery of targeted information advice and guidance (IAG) services from April 2013. Young people will have a voice in shaping and developing the service.
- As part of the Talent Match initiative, Leeds City Region will receive £5.7 million of Big Lottery funding (Leeds are likely to receive around £2 million) over a five year period to target young people aged 18-24 who have been NEET for over 12 months. An outline plan for the use of the funding will be submitted in November 2012, with delivery scheduled for June 2013.
- Secondary schools can receive free curriculum planning support from the Education Business Partnership, to determine which enterprise education, careers and work-related learning programmes can best support their young people. This is aimed at ensuring young people are more prepared for the world of work.
- The youth service is using its mobile provision to reach young people who are NEET in outlying areas, for those young people who are not attending regular sessions or accessing guidance and support.

What works locally

The Youth Service, igen and a number of other organisations working with young people, facilitate NEET/Not Known sweeps across the city. Home visits are made, during which as well as being able to identify the present destination of those young people, all receive appropriate guidance and support regarding where they could go for help with EET issues.

Data development

We have improved the data sets sent to schools and clusters and have new data sharing agreements in place with the Skills Funding Agency, Education Funding Agency, Job Centre Plus and the FE Colleges, all of which are supporting the partnership's drive to reduce number of young people whose status is not known. We have also included challenging not known targets in the specification for the new targeted IAG service, linked to payment by results.

Partners with a role to play Schools and FE colleges, IAG providers, housing services, young people, parents and family, employers, Jobcentre Plus, offsite providers, adult social care, the youth service, Prospects, igen and voluntary, community and faith sector partners