

# Every Child Matters Update

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www.childrenleeds.org.uk

## Beacon award recognition

On Tuesday 4 March 2008 the annual round of beacon awards was held in London. As a local authority, Leeds has an excellent reputation for being successful at gaining beacon status for areas of excellence. This year was no exception. The local area agreement and the Leeds strategic partnership (Leeds Initiative) were recognised for their approach to improving outcomes and narrowing the gap between our communities. As part of the Leeds Initiative, Children Leeds contributed evidence of emerging best practice to improve outcomes for our children and young people. Particular commendation and thanks go to Wildfire, for the work that they do, on behalf of Children Leeds. The Leeds Youth Work Partnership, the Early Years Gypsy and Traveller project and the West Leeds pilot all provided evidence demonstrating how we do things differently in Leeds, and the focus on partnership working to deliver excellent services to our most vulnerable children and young people.

Sincere thanks to everyone involved. A lot of hard work went into arranging visits, writing the original bid and developing a DVD to showcase our work which has now been recognised nationally!

If you would like to find out more about the beacon scheme please visit: [www.beacons.idea.gov.uk](http://www.beacons.idea.gov.uk)

## Catching the Bus

The Catching the Bus report has been recognised nationally as best practice in the new IDEa toolkit.

The next issue that young people will be looking at is the environment including waste management, education, people and improving school buildings.

## Please pass this publication on to colleagues in children's services

If your organisation or colleagues do not have access to email or the internet, or would like this update in another format, please let us know. You can call us on 0113 395 0247.

## Extended services conference

On 7 March over 200 delegates and 80 facilitators worked together to explore the multiple strands of the extended services agenda. More than half of the delegate audience was from school leadership or school governor teams, working alongside colleagues from Education Leeds and Children Leeds.

Twenty three teams of 'lead professionals' led small, focused round-table conversations that allowed school governors, amongst others, to engage in close debate and discussion.

The feedback at the end of the day was extremely positive, with all delegates agreeing that the conference had been helpful in moving the agenda forward. A full conference report giving further advice and support will be available in the summer term.



**Councillor Stewart Golton**  
Lead executive member for children's services

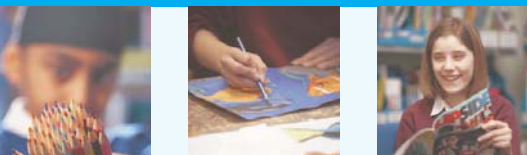
## A positive start

I have been really impressed by the attitudes and achievements of the many Children Leeds colleagues that I have met since becoming executive lead member for children's services. Particularly encouraging is the enthusiasm our partners are showing for our approach in Leeds. Different groups clearly want to work together, and find new ways to engage with children and young people to address their priorities.

Looking ahead, one of our biggest challenges will be building on this partnership approach to embed our commissioning processes more effectively. Commissioning will make sure that we target attention and resources to where it can have the greatest impact, making services more efficient and ultimately more effective. I encourage you to find out more about how we are commissioning services for children and young people in Leeds, so that you and your organisation can support our shared approach to improving outcomes. You can find out more at <http://www.everychildmatters.gov.uk/strategy/planningandcommissioning/>

Stewart Golton

20 March 2008 issue 16



Children **Leeds**



## Successful inclusion for children on the move conference

**Friday, 11 April 2008**

Education Leeds is holding a one-day conference on Friday, 11 April 2008 at the Holiday Inn Hotel, Garforth to explore the issues around successful inclusion for children on the move. The day will be useful for headteachers, senior staff involved in admitting children or young people into school, and their successful inclusion, officers involved in admissions or inclusion, and other agencies that are involved in this process.

If you would like more information please email Vivienne Buckland, admissions team, at:  
vivienne.buckland@educationleeds.co.uk

## Dates for your diary

**14 April**

**Arm-in-arm conflict resolution conference**

**Royal Armouries, Leeds.**

For more information contact Jon Copley, email:  
Jon.copley@armouries.org.uk or phone: 0113 220 1963

**12 June**

**Leaving NEET behind  
The Carriageworks, Leeds.**

For more information contact Lynne McLaughlin, email:  
lynnem@archway-leeds.org.uk or phone: 0113 383 3900.

**27 June**

**Governors' conference  
A vision for the future  
Village Hotel,  
Otley Road, Leeds.**

For more information please email  
education.governors@educationleeds.co.uk

## Joint Area Review (JAR)

We are finally reaching the end of what seems like a very long process! We have received the final draft of the report, although this will not be published by Ofsted until May, so we are not allowed to share the detail yet. However, the JAR findings were very close to our own self-assessment, and that is very helpful in terms of the consistency of our own improvement work. We will now prepare an action plan arising out of the recommendations in the report. This will be overseen by the multi-agency JAR steering group. All the messages from the JAR will be incorporated into the CYPP process, especially our work in agreeing our priorities for the coming year. The preparation for, and participation in the JAR was a fantastic effort by the many people who were involved from right across the partnership, and the work has had benefits well beyond the inspection itself – we know more about ourselves, and our partnerships have strengthened too. Thanks again to everyone for their splendid efforts.

## Young people hold the purse strings

Young people have been using their decision-making powers to allocate funding for worthy projects in Leeds. A panel of representatives from Leeds Youth Council and Reach Out And Reconnect (ROAR) were professionally trained to look at funding applications, and decide which projects can make a positive impact on young people's lives.

The money comes from the Youth Opportunities Fund and Youth Capital Fund, which the government advises should put young people themselves at the heart of decision-making through applying, deciding and participating!

Projects receiving support include a mobile media van to take arts projects around the city, and promotional materials to support the Be Healthy! Stay Safe Campaign. For more information contact Lesley Reed on 0113 2243331.

## This is your publication...

so let us know about the great work you are doing in your organisation. How are you including children and young people in the changes you are making? We all want Leeds to have the very best children's services to make sure that every child matters.

Please send all your comments and suggestions about this update to the children's services unit. Email:  
children.leeds@leeds.gov.uk  
Phone: 0113 395 0247

## Centralisation of children's hospital services

A meeting has been organised on Monday 31 March 2008, 8pm at Littlewood Hall, Leeds General Infirmary, to seek input and ideas from parents about plans to move children's inpatient services from St James's University Hospital, to combine them with those already on site at Leeds General Infirmary.

More opportunities for parents to take part in discussions and share their views will be provided at a later date.

For more information, please contact Andrew Bannister on 0113 206 6244.

## Latest information at [www.childrenleeds.org.uk](http://www.childrenleeds.org.uk)

The new look Children Leeds website launched with new pages. Additional pages are still being developed. The web address stays the same: [www.childrenleeds.org.uk](http://www.childrenleeds.org.uk)

