

Every Child Matters update

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Issue 62

Ofsted findings now available

The findings of the announced inspection of children's service, which took place from Monday 23 November to Friday 4 December 2009, have now been published.

The report has two main sections: findings relating to safeguarding and those relating to services for looked after children.

The report highlights a number of our strengths and notes that we have made progress since the unannounced inspection in July last year. However, the inspectors also found significant areas where we need to improve and the report makes a number of recommendations.

Details of the findings can be found on the Children Leeds website, go to: www.childrenleeds.org.uk and click on 'Working Together Better'.

Please pass this publication on to colleagues with an interest in outcomes for children and young people.

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.

Sparrows play at Royal Albert Hall

Leeds Silver Steel Sparrows performed at the UK Schools Prom at the Royal Albert Hall in November.

Pupils from schools across Leeds played at the Prom, which was organised by Music for Youth, the educational charity.

The steel band is a safe musical haven for the city's talented children and young people, including those who have seen first hand domestic violence or drug abuse; and those who have fled war zones or racial persecution in the Middle East, Africa, or Eastern Europe.

Last year the Sparrows, who perform around 25 local events each year, went through to the finals of the National Festival of Music for Youth, for the fourth year running.

The UK Schools Prom was attended by John Whitchell, chair of the Federation of Music Services and Nigel Scaife from the Associated Examination Board; and hosted by composer Howard Goodall and Classic FM's Margarita Taylor.

Players rehearse every week at City of Leeds School with instruments and tuition provided by ArtForms, Education Leeds.

For more information, go to: www.artformsleeds.co.uk or www.mfy.org.uk or phone: 0113 230 4074



Our next steps

I've really enjoyed working with everyone these last two weeks and am delighted with the commitment and engagement from everyone working for Children in Leeds.

This week saw the first meeting of the new Children's Services Improvement Board, chaired by Bill McCarthy, chief executive of NHS Yorkshire and the Humber, which will oversee our Improvement Plan and report to the DCSF. We have high level representation from the council and partners who will give us excellent support and challenge.

Also, council chief executive Paul Rogerson has confirmed this week that Eleanor Brazil has been appointed as interim director of children's services in Leeds.

This is exciting news, as Eleanor brings a wealth of experience. I will continue in the role for the next six weeks and will ensure a smooth transfer to Eleanor – a busy period. I know you'll share my determination to build momentum so Eleanor can hit the ground running when she joins us.

Sandie Keene
Interim director of children's services

Children Leeds

2010 Holocaust Memorial Day

Sunday 24 January 2010, Victoria Hall at Leeds Town Hall, 2pm

The ceremony is an opportunity to reflect on the atrocities committed and show their support for the continued work towards a multi-cultural society. This year's theme is The Legacy of Hope.

Further information go to:
www.hmd.org.uk
or www.leeds.gov.uk/arts

Rainbow House open day

Wednesday 3 February 2010, Rainbow House, Victoria Park Road, Leeds, LS13 2HP, 12noon to 3pm

The open day is being held by Leeds Children and Young People's Social Care.

For more information contact
Judith Kahn, email:
judith.kahn@leeds.gov.uk

Placements for social work students in extended services

Children Leeds is working in partnership with Education Leeds extended services and the city's schools and universities to develop social work student placements in extended services settings.

The project will initially concentrate on first year placements for those studying for the BA social work programmes at Leeds universities. Students will undertake 40 day placements, beginning in February 2010.

Student placements fit into Every Child Matters, social and emotional aspects of learning (SEAL) and CAF; breaks down boundaries between professional and service users and carers; and develops knowledge and understanding of child development.

For more information or contact extended service, phone:
0113 214 4068.

Who are you talking to?

A review of the communication channels across children's services is now underway.

Communication channels are any planned methods of communication used to share information, and consult and promote to your audiences. These methods can include newsletters, reports, booklets, electronic newsletters, intranet and internet sites, events, posters, and flyers.

We'd like to know about all the audiences you communicate with, including colleagues in your team, services or organisations; partners; children, young people and their families.

Please fill in the form on the Children Leeds website, go to: **www.childrenleeds.org.uk** and click on 'Useful documents'.

Please provide examples, send hard copies to: Catherine Wright, leadership support service, 10th floor east, Merrion House, Leeds, LS2 8DT or phone: **0113 247 4160.**

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.**

School governors are people just like you!

All over Leeds people like you are helping to run our schools.

School governors come from local communities and all walks of life. They are keen to make sure children and young people in Leeds get the best possible education, and that schools offer high quality teaching in a safe and happy environment.

What do governors do?

Governors are responsible for raising standards and for a school's overall performance. A school governing body is a team, consisting of the headteacher and up to 19 governors.

The role of a governing body is to:

- Work as a team to support, challenge and decide what is best for a school, its pupils and staff;
- Set the future direction for a school and, together with the headteacher, decide how the school's budget should be spent; and
- Make decisions collectively on matters such as managing staff performance, targets, school policies and the school's improvement plan, and report to parents and carers about the school's achievement.

All you need is enthusiasm, a passion for education, a desire to see children and young people realise their full potential and to dedicate a minimum of eight hours per term.

To become a governor and for more information, contact Catherine Riding, phone: **0113 247 5560** or email: catherine.riding@educationleeds.co.uk