

Is anyone better off?

Safe reduction in children looked after children numbers

1290 children were looked after in January 2015, down 155 (10.7%) since March 2011



Gradual reduction in numbers on child protection plans

The number of June children on plan at the end of December 2014 was 642 a reduction of 419 (39.5%) since June 2011. The number of children subject to a plan for two years or more reduced to 8 (1.2%) in December 2014 from 38 (6.8%) in March 2011.

Fewer referrals to children's social work service

11,900 referrals were received in 2013-14 down 1,600 or 12% since 2011-12. The number resulting in no further action reduced from 21% in 2011-12 to 9.8% in 2013-14.



More days in school with best ever school attendance

Around 400,000 extra days in school in 2013-14 compared to 2010-11.

Reduction in the number of young people NEET

Between June 2011 and December 2014 the number of young people not in education employment or training reduced from 2,099 to 1,449 a reduction of 650 (31 per cent).



Improvement in monitoring of EET involvement

EET "not known" was 5.8% (Dec 2014) down from 7.6% (Dec 2011). At the end of the last academic year it was 2.4%. We have an improved understanding of the young people who are available for EET and of those who are sustained NEET.

High rate of children being adopted

In Leeds, 20% of children leaving care in the last three years have been adopted, compared to 14% nationally. The percentage adopted has risen from 14% in 2010-11 to 26% in April-December 2014. More children from BME backgrounds are adopted in Leeds than nationally.



Timely and quality adoption processes

The average time between a child entering care and moving in with his or her adopted family is 64 days shorter in Leeds than the national average.

Increasing use of special guardianship orders

Currently 396 SGOs are in place where the carer is a family member of the child, the use of SGOs rose by 18% in 2011-12 to 2012-13 and then by 39.1% to 2013-14.



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Meeting all 7 LILAC standards

These are standards for involving and listening to looked after children and young people.



Reduction in infant mortality

The 2012 rate has reduced to 3.4 per 1,000 births from 4.4 in 2010. This is now below the national average and provisional information shows further improvement in 2013.

More primary schools are rated good or better

In December 2014 87% of primary schools were good or outstanding, an increase of 19% points since August 2011.



More secondary schools are rated good or better

In December 2014 65% of secondary schools are good or outstanding an increase of 10% points since August 2011.

Increase in timeliness of initial child protection conferences

The timeliness of ICPCs improved from 33.1 % in 2010-11 to 54.4 % for April-December 2014. For the October to December 2014 it was 82.5%.



Reduction in re-referral rates

Re-referrals fell from 35.8 % in 2011-12 to 23.3 % in 2013-14, in line with national rates.

Introduction of timely child & family assessments

From their introduction in November 2013 to April 2014 84.1% of child and family assessments completed on time. The December 2014 rate was 81.1%



Keeping looked after children in good health

In 2013-14, 98% of children in care for over 12 months had an annual health assessment (88% Eng.), 98% had up to date immunisations (87% Eng.), 69% dental checks (84% Eng.) and 100% of under 5's had an up to date development assessment (87% Eng.). Dentals in Leeds had increased to 89% by December 2014.



Commitment to care leavers

The number of care leavers in education, employment and training in Leeds is 55% (Eng. 45%) and the number in suitable accommodation is 84.7% (Eng. 77.8%)

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Commitment to permanence

Over 94% of children have a clear permanence plan by their 4 month review, this shows how the child/young person will leave care in 91% of cases.



Fewer children living in external residential placements

There has been a near 50% reduction in children placed in external residential placements, from 106 children in January 2012 to 54 in January 2015.

Looked after children placed close to home

In 2013-14 only 8% of children in care were placed both outside the Leeds boundary and over 20 miles from home, this was below comparators.



Increase in the number of in-house foster carers

There was an increase of 20 in-house foster carers in 2012-13, 44 in 2013-14 and an additional 14 in the first 6 months of 2014-15. At the end of 2014 644 children were placed with in-house foster carers and 180 with Independent Fostering Agencies, the later reduction from 303 in March 2013.

No young people in Leeds are placed in bed and breakfast or in houses of multiple occupation



More stable placements for looked after children

In the 12 months to December 2014 3.5% of looked after children had 3 or more placement moves compared to 14% in 2010-11.

Therapeutic social work supports placement stability

Our fostering surgeries support placement stability. In 2011-12 85 children were supported and 13% experienced placement breakdown later in the year. In 2013-14 106 children were supported and only 2 (1.9%) had a placement breakdown.



Increased number and better retention of social workers

The 2012 redesign of the social work service increased the number of social work posts by 50, an investment of £1.7 million. In December 2013 51% of social workers in locality teams had fewer than two years post-qualifying experience, a year later this has reduced to 27%.

Reduced caseloads for children's social workers

The service has implemented a measured, incremental process to reduce caseloads. Open cases reduced from 7017 in December 2013 to 6423 in January 2015. By 2013 workers' caseloads had reduced to an average of 25 from 29 in 2010-11; by the end of 2014 it was 20.



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Decrease in the use of agency social workers

Retention of social workers is improving with a clear career path, a strong training offer and Leeds' growing reputation. Agency workers reduced from 63 in January 2012 to 29 in January 2015, our ambition is for all posts to be filled by permanent staff by summer 2015.

Increased support for newly qualified social workers

A comprehensive programme including a training pathway, action learning sets, protected development time, reduced caseload, regular and enhanced supervision time and academic learning. Caseloads are protected at 90%.



Comprehensive learning and development offer

This includes a clear continuous professional development pathway for the children's social work service, supported by a nimble and flexible workforce team.

Developed the role of advanced practitioners

Fifty-six posts were created for advanced practitioners. Caseloads of advanced practitioners are protected at 50% as they co-work and coach less experienced social workers and support team managers.



Child centred case management system implemented

Frameworkki provides a fully transparent electronic record that enables practitioners to see the journey of the child in one place. This was one of the largest and most complex implementations undertaken nationally. Rolled out to 1400 users in November 2013 the user base has since grown to over 2000.

Award winning independent travel training service

Leeds won the national 2014 *Children & Young People Now* Learning Award for the initiative that made the best contribution to improving educational achievement. This work has given over 100 young people more confidence and independence while saving £465,000.



Increase in family group conferencing capacity

Capacity increased from 1 team manager and 3 coordinators in 2010 to 3 team managers and 22 coordinators in 2014. A successful £4.85m innovation bid will help take our family centred approach forward.

Successful Families First (Troubled Families) Programme

Leeds can demonstrate 100% compliance with the national payment by results programme by evidencing "turn around" of 2190 families. Families First has a national reputation for its approach to developing Think Family and restorative approaches.



Effective early help assessment and intervention

2013-14 saw a 32% increase in early help assessments with 1185 undertaken. 1700 cases stepped down from the social care duty and advice team. 550 practitioners were trained to do EHAs.

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Multi systemic therapy working in Leeds

MST is part of our targeted family intervention. Capacity has increased from a single team to 3 area teams, plus one of 3 MST-CAN pilots which supports the most complex families. Leeds is one of 2 authorities part of MST FIT working to support reunification.



Early start evolving into 'Best Start' strategy

Around 3500 parents every quarter are offered a level of additional early start support. There has been an increase in the number of antenatal face to face contacts with health visitors to 98%.

High rate of children's centres good or better

As at March 2014 75% of children's centres were good or outstanding (the national average was 67%).



Increased capacity and coordination to respond to CSE

Leeds has made considerable progress in tackling Child Sexual Exploitation, building on robust partnership working and a programme of service and practice development.

Fewer looked after children involved in criminal activity

In 2010-11 11.9% of children looked after (for more than 12 months) had offended. In 2013-14 this fell to 4.3%, below the national average for the first time.



Cluster development embedded into governance structure

Leeds schools financial commitment to cluster working

To facilitate the cluster model, Leeds schools, through Schools Forum have invested £5.2m per annum for the 3 years 2013-14 to 2015-16.



Leeds City Council's commitment to Child Friendly City

The Child Friendly Leeds ambition has cross-party political support. This is reflected in the significant ongoing investment of 23%* of the council's budget in children's services, despite the challenging financial context. (*Subject to February 2015 full Council)

Child Friendly Leeds

Our whole city approach is reflected in the commitment of 300 Child Friendly City ambassadors and in the more than 550 nominations for over 250 organisations and individuals for the 2014 Child Friendly City Awards.

