

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

12 JULY 2018

REPORT OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT COMMITTEE

CABINET DECISION

Lead Cabinet Member – Children and Young People – Councillor Ann McCoy

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF INCLUSION IN SCHOOLS

1. Summary

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Children and Young People (CYP) Select Committee's review of Inclusion in Schools.

The aim of the review was to consider the Council's role in promoting inclusion in education, and understanding the range of approaches taken in local schools. This was in the context of rising numbers of exclusions and managed moves. The Review also considered the issues around Elective Home Education.

2. Recommendations

The Committee recommend that the Council takes action in six main areas:

Make representation locally, regionally and nationally about the implications of the increase in school exclusions and challenge policies we feel are inappropriate.

1. Submit a copy of the Committee's final report to local schools and Academy Trusts, the National School's Commissioner, and Secretary of State for Education.
2. Continue to emphasise our concerns locally to schools and Multi Academy Trusts.
3. Continues to write to the Regional School Commissioner and escalate concerns where necessary.
4. Works with our MPs to exert pressure on the National Schools Commissioner.
5. Uses the Local Government Association and Association of Directors of Children's Services networks to advocate for a more inclusive approach, make representations for increased financial support to Local Authorities, and push for more up to date information to be used by Department for Education and Ofsted.

Make it more challenging for schools to pursue exclusion by providing additional guidance on alternative approaches, and being more proactive in our approach to pupils at risk of exclusion. We will be proactive in our approach to challenging schools with high numbers of FTEs.

6. Suggest an approach to schools to assess what other support has been or could be provided to pupils, with an emphasis on ensuring enough time is allowed for interventions to work. This will include:
 - a) We will publish and circulate to all schools a statement of the Local Authority's preferred approach to behaviour management, to include: details of the support available via the Pupil Inclusion Panel (PIP), and examples of positive practice/multi-agency working that has reduced exclusions and improved outcomes for children.
 - b) We will promote an approach whereby schools assess what support has been arranged in each case where there are repeated fixed term exclusions. We will continue to raise concerns about individual pupils directly with schools.
7. Continues to promote attachment training to local schools and monitor the take up.
8. Works to enhance the role of Governors in supporting inclusive practice. This will include promotion of training opportunities, awareness of SEND duties, and promotion of the role of PIP within their school.

Make schools more accountable for their actions on exclusion

9. Publishes an annual report from the Pupil Inclusion Panel (PIP). This will include trends in the exclusion data, and school engagement with the PIP.
10. Publishes exclusion data on our website each School Term.

Make it easier for parents to challenge exclusions

11. Develops a guide for parents, highlighting their rights to appeal, and publish this on the SBC website.
12. Supports and advocates for parents who wish to challenge decisions, including where exclusions are potentially in breach of the Equality Act 2010.

Make the alternatives clearer, realistic and of high quality

13. Provides guidance on alternative approaches to behaviour management and best practice.
14. Ensures schools are engaged with Early Help, and review the offer.
15. Reviews the Alternative Provision offer, including the role of the PRU and its greater focus on early intervention and prevention, and if possible, development of a free school.
16. Improves the SEND offer, including the development of a free school.

17. Explores development of an Elective Home Education Multi-agency Group for Stockton to better understand any gaps in services.

In relation to elective home education

18. Continues to engage with schools and families to prevent EHE wherever possible, and monitor individual cases of children in EHE using the full extent of Local Authority powers.
19. Highlights our concerns regarding EHE with local MPs and Secretary of State for Education.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2017-18.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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CABINET DECISION

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SUMMARY

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Children and Young People (CYP) Select Committee's review of Inclusion in Schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend that the Council takes action in six main areas:

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DETAIL

- 1. The attached report outlines the findings of the review of Inclusion in Schools. The review was undertaken by Children and Young People Select Committee.

2. Following consideration by Cabinet, an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations will be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

3. The review does not propose any significant changes to policies or service delivery. The review has considered the ways in which the Council promotes an inclusive education system, and has considered the various approaches in place across local schools.
4. Permanently excluded pupils have been shown to have significantly poorer outcomes to their peers, and there has been a rising trend in the number of fixed term exclusions. Vulnerable pupils, including those with SEN and Child in Need/Child Protection status, are particularly at risk.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no significant financial implications.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no significant legal implications.

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. This scrutiny review of Inclusion in Schools is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

8. The Council Plan 2017-20 includes the key objective to: Improve education and learning outcomes for all children and young people. Within this, key actions include
 - Work to ensure all schools/academies in Stockton are good or better
 - Review the model for supporting school improvement
 - Develop options for alternative provision and curriculum delivery for 14-19 year olds at risk of disengagement
9. In addition, improving services for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is a key priority for Children's Services.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

10. The review and recommendations apply to the cohort of children and young people in the Borough as a whole, including Children in our care. The review recommendations include reference to ensuring more vulnerable pupils receive appropriate support.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

11. During the review the Committee has considered all views regarding the use of exclusions, and gathered a wide range of information including from local schools and Academy Trusts, Regional Schools Commissioner, Ofsted, and local MPs. The review has been supported throughout by officers from the Schools and SEN Service.
12. Members have undertaken a number of visits to local provision including: Outwood Academy Bishopsgarth, North Shore Academy, Northfield School and Sports College, St Michael's Academy, St John the Baptist Primary School, and Bishopton Pupil Referral Unit.
13. Members were also able to visit the SEN Support and Advisory Team, and the Attendance and Safeguarding Team. The Committee also considered anonymised case examples of recent exclusions and the steps taken in each case.
14. The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People was consulted on the findings and recommendations of the Select Committee.

Name of Contact Officer: Peter Mennear

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Education related? Yes

Background Papers: None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: N/a

Property: N/a