

REPORT TO CABINET

18 JUNE 2026

**REPORT OF CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

**Cabinet Member for Children and Young People - Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor
Clare Besford**

Scrutiny Review of Children Not in School

Summary

The attached report presents the outcomes of the Children and Young People Select Committee's review of Children Not in School.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

The topic was included on the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2025-2026. The review is now complete, and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Children and Young People Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

Recommendations

The Select Committee recommends:

Home and Hospital (H&H)

- 1) That staffing capacity is reviewed to ensure provision remains, safe, responsive and broad enough in curriculum and that the staffing model adopted provides flexible and responsive provision in the most cost-effective way.
- 2) That opportunities are explored and expanded for peer social interaction.
- 3) That opportunities for partnership working to enhance both curriculum and enrichment are explored.
- 4) The re-integration pathways are explored.

Electively Home Educated (EHE)

- 5) That a more relational approach be strengthened with EHE families with identification of dedicated staffing resource to promote this.
- 6) That clearer information is provided to parents about:
 - Examination entry processes
 - Associated costs

- Available support services

- 7) That work continues to prepare for legislative changes on compulsory registers and strengthened Local Authority powers.
- 8) That the range of support shared via EHE networks is broadened.
- 9) That opportunities for partnership working to strengthen intervention and support are explored.
- 10) That the capacity for schools to provide early intervention and support in response to emotional and mental health needs is reviewed.
- 11) That best practice identified at the Attendance Networks on re-integrating vulnerable learners into school is widely and regularly shared.
- 12) That the support available to children and their families experiencing Emotional Based School Avoidance (EBSA) is widely and regularly shared.
- 13) That the Team Around the School be fully appraised of the needs of previously Electively Home Educated pupils who are returning to mainstream education to support and nurture them back into school.

Children Missing from Education (CME)

- 14) That off roll audits are maintained and expanded to prevent inappropriate removal from school rolls.
- 15) That opportunities to work in partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector are fully utilised to gather intelligence.
- 16) That consideration is given to how the social care reforms can be used to reduce the number of children missing from education.

Educated Other than at School (EOTAS)

- 17) That multi-agency working arrangements for children receiving EOTAS be strengthened, to ensure earlier, coordinated planning for children with complex needs, with education, health and social care partners jointly developing, owning and reviewing EOTAS packages to improve timeliness, quality and outcomes.

Alternative Provision (AP)

- 18) That the new QA framework is implemented fully with follow up action plans for providers needing improvement.
- 19) That AP networks continue to be expanded to promote consistent practice.
- 20) That action is taken to ensure that all AP placements have a clear education plan, regularly reviewed, with reintegration as a priority where appropriate.

Admissions

- 21) That processes and capacity for pupils with EHCPs who move into the Borough are reviewed to minimise time out of education.

Safeguarding

- 22) That caseworker training in professional curiosity is enhanced to seek to ensure that risks are spotted during educational monitoring visits.
- 23) That multi-agency information sharing for EHE and CME cohorts is strengthened, to compensate for restrictions on direct safeguarding checks.
- 24) That CME processes continue to involve agencies such as Border Force, Police, Health and Housing to track and protect high risk pupils.

Detail

1. This report outlines the findings and recommendations of the Children and Young People Select Committee's scrutiny review of Children Not in School (CNIS).
2. Children not in school covers a range of scenarios where a child is not accessing a full-time education. The range of reasons a child may not be accessing a full-time education at a school is vast and covers:
 - All reasons for absence from school including authorised absence, unauthorised absence
 - Pupils on reduced/part-time time tables
 - Pupils who are accessing Alternative Provision (AP) not in a registered school (whether arranged by the school or the local authority)
 - Pupils receiving Home and Hospital Provision (H&H)
 - Pupils who are CME (Children Missing Education)
 - Children who are EHE (Electively Home Educated)
 - Children who have no school base and are EOTAS (Educated Other Than at School)
 - Children who move into the borough and are waiting for a school place

Community Impact and Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment

3. An Equality and Poverty Impact Assessment has been completed, and the recommendations are assessed as having a positive impact.

Corporate Parenting Implications

4. Set out in the Select Committee report.

Financial Implications

5. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

Legal Implications

6. Set out in the Select Committee report.

Risk Assessment

7. The review is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

Wards Affected and Consultation with Ward/ Councillors (refer to Concordat for Communication and Consultation with Members)

8. This review is relevant to all wards across the Borough.

Background Papers

9. None

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