

**CABINET
15TH JANUARY 2008**

ITEM NO.

**FINAL REPORT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SCHOOLS TASK AND FINISH
REVIEW GROUP**

**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Chris McEwan, Children and Young People
Portfolio**

Responsible Director – Murray Rose, Director of Children’s Services

Purpose of Report

1. To report the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee’s recommendations in relation to health and safety in schools.

Information and Analysis

2. The Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee (now Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee), at its meeting held on the 30th October 2006, established a Task and Finish Review Group to gain an overview of the current situation in relation to compliance with Health and Safety guidance and legislation in schools, to consider the penalties that may be imposed on the Council for any non-compliance, to add value to the work presently being conducted by the Health and Safety Unit, and advise on action to encourage improved performance.
3. The detailed findings of the Review Group are outlined in the attached final report (**Appendix 1**). The Review Group feel that it is appropriate to commend the Officers of the Health and Safety Unit for the good progress that has taken place during the period of this review.
4. The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on the 5th November 2007, accepted and endorsed the recommendations of the Review Group, and agreed to refer the following recommendations to Cabinet for consideration :-
 - (a) That an update report be submitted to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in six months time;
 - (b) That an Annual Children’s Services Award be created for schools involving Staff and Pupils demonstrating commitment to Health and Safety in schools.

Director’s Comments

5. The Director of Children's Services appreciates the work of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group and accepts all the recommendations.

Legal Implications

6. This report has been considered by the Borough Solicitor for legal implications in accordance with the Council's approved procedures. There are no issues which the Borough Solicitor considers needs to be brought to the specific attention of Members, other than those highlighted in the report.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998

7. The contents of this report has been considered in the context of the requirements placed on the Council by Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, namely, the duty on the Council to exercise its functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent, crime and disorder in its areas. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Council Policy Framework

8. The issues contained within this report do not represent change to Council policy or the Council's policy framework.

Decision Deadline

9. For the purpose of the 'call-in' procedure this does not represent an urgent manner.

Recommendation

10. It is recommended that Cabinet note and accept the recommendations of Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Reason

11. To enable the views of Cabinet to be sought and referred back to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee.

Murray Rose
Director of Children's Services

Background Papers

There were no background papers used other than those referred to in the report.

Paul Dalton : Extension 2387