
HEALTH AND SAFETY IN SCHOOLS TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP

Purpose of Report

1. To report the decision of Cabinet following its consideration of the final report of the Health and Safety in Schools Task and Finish Review Group.

Information and Analysis

2. The Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee (now Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee) at a meeting held on 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 final report of the Review Group was considered by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 5th November 2007, and the Committee supported and endorsed the recommendations of the Review Group, and referred them to Cabinet for consideration.
4. Cabinet considered the final report, together with the comments from the Director of Children's Services, detailed in **Appendix 1**, at its meeting held on 15th January 2008, and resolved that:-

”That the recommendations of the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Committee, as detailed in the submitted report, be accepted, and that the Scrutiny Committee and Officers be thanked for their work in respect of the review.”

Legal Implications

5. 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 need 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

6. The contents of this report have 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 area. It is not considered that the contents of this report have any such effect.

Recommendations

7. That the comments of the Director of Children's Service and the response from the Cabinet be noted.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

- (i) Final report of the Health and Safety in Schools Task and Finish Review Group to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 5th November 2007.
- (ii) Report to Cabinet held on 15th January 2008.

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