
FINAL REPORT OF BEHAVIOUR SUPPORT TASK AND FINISH REVIEW GROUP

Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Chris McEwan, Children's Services Portfolio

Responsible Director – Paul Wildsmith, Director of Corporate Services

Purpose of Report

1. To report the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee's recommendations in relation to behavioural issues in school children and young people, and the behavioural support systems available within the Borough.

Information and Analysis

2. The Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting held on the 5th September 2005, established a Task and Finish Review Group to examine behavioural issues in school children and young people, and the behavioural support systems available within the Borough.
3. The detailed findings of the Review Group are outlined in the attached final report (**Appendix 1**). The Group did conclude that initially there were a number of issues that needed attention, however during the period of the review it was obvious that the Children's Services Department had worked very hard to identify these issues and implement measures to address such matters. The Review Group feel that it is appropriate to commend the Officers of the Children's Services Department for the good progress that has taken place during the period of this review.
4. The Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee, at its meeting on the 30th October 2006, accepted and endorsed the recommendations of the Review Group, and agreed to refer the following recommendations to Cabinet for consideration :-
 - (a) That the total number of Lunch Time Exclusions, Fixed Term Exclusions and Permanent Exclusions, per School, be reported to the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee on a six monthly basis, in order to continually monitor the scope of the issue.
 - (b) That an update report is received by the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee outlining the current position of the 14-19 Curriculum in Darlington.
 - (c) That the Children's Services Department ensure that all Primary and Secondary Schools are aware of the support systems available regarding assistance in exclusions and behavioural support, and to ensure that accurate databases are kept, both by the

Children's Services Department and all Schools individually.

- (d) That the use of the guidance provided by the Department for Education and Skills in the documents 'Information Sharing: Practitioner' Guide – Integrated working to improve outcomes for children and young people' and 'Supporting Integrated Working: Outline Training Strategy and Plan' be recommended in the development of multi-agency working.
- (e) That a report is submitted to the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee at the end of the Academic Year 2006/07 reviewing the placement of the Prevention Officer at Hummersknott School and Language College.
- (f) That the development of the new Pupil Referral Unit at the Rise Carr site remains on schedule and is completed by Autumn 2007, and that the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee receive quarterly updates on the progress of the development.
- (g) That the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee receive an update presentation from the representatives from the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) later in the year.
- (h) That the work being conducted at the Education Village, and between Hummersknott School and Language College and Skerne Park Primary School, in the early identification of behavioural problems at a primary school level, be extended to school clusters.

Director's Comments

- 5. The Director of Children's Services appreciates the work of Lifelong Learning 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 Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group.

Reason

11. To enable the views of Cabinet to be sought and referred back to the Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee.

Paul Wildsmith
Director of Corporate Services

Background Papers

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

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