



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

Cabinet **on 18th November 2008**

| | |
|---|---|
| Report Title: Cabinet Response to the Scrutiny Review of School Exclusions | |
| Forward Plan reference number (if applicable): [add reference] | |
| Report of: Director of the Children and Young People’s Service | |
| Wards(s) affected: ALL | Report for: [Key / Non-Key Decision] |
| <p>1. Purpose</p> <p>To agree the Cabinet’s response, as proposed in this report, to the recommendations made by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as a result of its Scrutiny Review of school exclusions.</p> | |
| <p>2. Introduction by Cabinet Member</p> <p>I welcome this review and its recommendations into what can be done to prevent pupils from being excluded from schools. It has been a valuable review and I should like to thank everyone involved. I know that the Scrutiny Panel was impressed by what is being done in Haringey schools and by the Council to prevent pupil exclusion and that is very encouraging. We agree with all the recommendations made.</p> | |
| <p>3. Recommendations</p> <p>3.1 To welcome the recommendations made in the report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (O&SC) into its review of school exclusions.</p> <p>3.2 To agree that the recommendations and responses are progressed by the Children & Young People’s Service together with Haringey schools.</p> | |

Report Authorised by: Sharon Shoemith
Director
Children and Young People's Service

Contact Officer: Susan Shaw, Head of Inclusion
Tel: 020 8489 5083
Email: susan.shaw@haringey.gov.uk

4. Chief Financial Officer Comments

- 4.1 The provision for pupils who are permanently excluded and cannot be placed in other schools is met through the Pupil Support Centres (PSC); the cost of which is a centrally retained expenditure within the Dedicated Schools Budget (DSB). To that extent it reduces the resources for delegation and therefore generally available to schools.
- 4.2 Work is currently underway to provide financial incentives, to encourage schools to reduce the number of pupils excluded, through a process of devolving some of the resources used to fund the PSC and charging schools directly for those pupils that they exclude to the PSC. In this way schools will have both incentives and resources to implement preventative measures such as those identified by the scrutiny review.

5. Head of Legal Services Comments

- 5.1 The recommendations and actions proposed all fall within the statutory framework, including statutory guidance, governing the issue of pupil exclusions from school.

6. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 6.1 The Scrutiny Review report and background papers are available from Carolyn Banks, Principal Scrutiny Support Officer on 0208 489 2965
carolyn.banks@haringey.gov.uk

7. Strategic Implications

- 7.1 The Review has provided a valuable examination of what can be done to prevent pupils from being excluded from schools. The Scrutiny Panel was impressed by what was being done by schools and the Council, and concluded that the services provided were very good. Through this Scrutiny Review there has been an opportunity to:

- Review good practice; and
- To find out what local schools are doing to prevent pupils being excluded.

7.2 This report summarises the Cabinet response to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Review of school exclusions. The responses to these recommendations are detailed in the Appendix.

8. Financial Implications

The cost of exclusions can be measured in terms of the cost per place in alternative provision but the true costs to society are probably much greater. If pupils are excluded they are much more likely to be at risk of or involved with crime, to not be in education, employment and training and to be involved with drugs and alcohol abuse. Therefore the more that can be done to keep young people engaged with education the better.

9. Legal Implications

Since September 2007 the Council has had a legal duty to provide full time education for young people from Day 6 of a permanent exclusion and schools have a similar duty from Day 6 of a fixed term exclusion.

10. The review made the following recommendations:

10.1 To investigate the possibility of strengthening links with out-of-borough schools to enable greater consultation about Haringey pupils in danger of being excluded and to inform members of the Panel of the outcome.

10.2 To write to all secondary schools in the Borough encouraging them to make use of the "Sports Academy" at Tottenham.

10.3 To report to the appropriate Cabinet Member on ways of developing the Pupil and Family Mediation Service including ensuring all communities are aware of the provision, encouraging schools and parents/carers to use the service in a pre-emptive manner with drop-in-surgeries accessible to all Borough residents.

10.4 To circulate the report to all Borough schools informing them that:

- exclusion should only be used as a last resort and only when the school is able to demonstrate that all other options have been exhausted;
- that procedures for reporting exclusion data to the council are followed so that it may be properly analysed, and suitable strategies put in place;
- the best way of tackling or reducing the need for exclusion was to encourage a whole school approach as happened at Gladesmore and Bow Schools;
- they should consider purchasing SLEUTH and training staff in its use;
- the strategies and practices of the Haringey Behaviour Support Teams be embedded in school practices and that they should implement the National SEAL programme for secondary schools;
- they had a responsibility to ensure that assaults by pupils on staff were reported.

11. Conclusion

The responses set out in the action plan in the appendix are considered to be effective measures to address the recommendations made in the Scrutiny Review report.

Overview and Scrutiny Review of School Exclusions: preventing exclusions

| Scrutiny recommendation | Cabinet Response | Proposed Action | Timescale |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p>A. To investigate the possibility of strengthening links with out-of-borough schools to enable greater consultation about Haringey pupils in danger of being excluded and to inform members of the Panel of the outcome.</p> | <p>Agreed - This recommendation recognises a national problem for fixed-term exclusions, as the school is responsible for making provision. It provides an opportunity to further investigate how links with out of borough schools can be strengthened, especially those schools who are excluding Haringey young people.</p> | <p>Review the out of borough exclusions for the past year and identify the schools excluding the highest numbers of Haringey young people. Develop greater liaison with those schools and their LA, to try to identify earlier pupils most at risk of exclusion and to look at what preventative measures can be put into place prior to exclusion. To inform the Panel of the outcome.</p> | <p>September 2008</p> <p>Ongoing National DCSF guidance awaited</p> <p>February 2008</p> |
| <p>B. To write to all secondary schools in the Borough encouraging them to make use of the “Sports Academy” at Tottenham.</p> | <p>Agreed – This recommendation provides an opportunity to re-publicise the work of the Sports Academy to ensure that all schools are aware of the provision and how they can access it.</p> | <p>To ensure all schools are aware of the Sports Academy and how this can be used as part of preventative measures.</p> | <p>September 2008</p> |
| <p>C. To report to the appropriate Cabinet Member on ways of developing the Pupil and Family Mediation Service including ensuring all communities are aware of the provision, encouraging schools and parents/carers to use the service in a pre-</p> | <p>Agreed – This recommendation aims to provide more information to communities, parents/carers and schools about exclusions including encouraging them to access mediation.</p> | <p>To take a range of actions to make information more readily available. This will include: Extend community surgeries to all ethnic groups and provide additional venues. Provide drop-in surgeries on Thursdays from 4pm-6pm in Wood Green Library and on Mondays from 5pm – 7pm in Tottenham Library. Enable</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |

| Scrutiny recommendation | Cabinet Response | Proposed Action | Timescale |
|--|---|--|-----------|
| emptive manner with drop-in-surgeries accessible to all Borough residents. | | personal appointments to be made with the Pupil and Family Mediation Officer at the Professional Development Centre. | |
| D. To circulate the report to all Borough Schools informing them that; D1 exclusion should only be used as a last resort and only when the school is able to demonstrate that all other options have been exhausted; | Agreed - This recommendation aims to publicise the view that exclusions are only to be used in extreme circumstances and when other options have been exhausted. | Haringey's exclusions guidance handbook has been sent to all schools. It clearly sets out that exclusions should be used as a last resort. The handbook will be updated as legislation and guidance changes. Local authority representatives at school discipline committee hearings are robustly challenging schools in seeking evidence of interventions that have been tried to prevent exclusion. Implement CAF assessment procedures prior to the majority of exclusions. | Ongoing |
| D2.that procedures for reporting exclusion data to the council are followed so that it may be properly analysed, and suitable strategies put in place; | Agreed – This recommendation is an ongoing aspect of the effective management of exclusions. | Since September 2007 there has been a requirement for schools to report and make provision for fixed term exclusions from day 6. The LA collects this data and analyses it termly so that strategies can be reviewed and prompt actions taken to improve practice. | Ongoing |
| D3 the best way of tackling | Agreed – This recommendation is an | The LA has developed a | Ongoing |

| Scrutiny recommendation | Cabinet Response | Proposed Action | Timescale |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>or reducing the need for exclusion was to encourage a whole school approach as happened at Gladesmore and Bow Schools;</p> | <p>important way of schools managing exclusions.</p> | <p>substantial training programme to develop the capacity of all staff, whole schools and specialist staff to address behaviour management and improvement strategies. Specific pilot programme planned from January 2009 for three years subject to DCSF grant funding.</p> | |
| <p>D4 they should consider purchasing SLEUTH and training staff in its use;</p> | <p>Agreed – SLEUTH is recognised as a useful tool for examining patterns of exclusion.</p> | <p>SLEUTH has been considered by all secondary schools and two schools have the facility to use SLEUTH. However some schools have reported that the staff time commitment is considerable if it is to be used effectively and they believe that the systems that they already have in place are more suitable for their needs.</p> | <p>Review n in January 2009 for schools with no significant reduction in exclusions.</p> |
| <p>D5 the strategies and practices of the Haringey Behaviour Support Teams be embedded in school practices and that they should implement the National SEAL programme for secondary schools;</p> | <p>Agreed – The recommendations builds on the training programme that is already in place to embed the strategies and practice to improve the management of pupil behaviour (see also D3).</p> | <p>The training programme will include the use of SEAL programmes in both primary and secondary schools. We have secured the support of the National Strategies Behaviour and Attendance team to help develop and deliver a four-day whole school continuous professional development programme (CPD) and we are also working with London University Institute of Education on the accreditation of a specialist module</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |

| Scrutiny recommendation | Cabinet Response | Proposed Action | Timescale |
|--|---|---|---------------------------|
| | | at Masters level CPD programme for specialist behaviour staff in schools, the PSC and the Local Authority. | |
| D6 they had a responsibility to ensure that assaults by pupils on staff were reported. | Agreed – This recommendation reminds schools of their responsibility to ensure assaults by pupils on staff are correctly reported. | Schools will be reminded of their duty to report all assaults on staff through the existing Health and Safety procedures. As a matter of course, the Pupil Placement Officer provides details of all exclusions (permanent & fixed term) to the local authority Health and Safety team where an assault on staff is given as a reason for exclusion. Health and Safety then check the incidents reported to them by schools and, if a report has not been received, follows this up with the school. This will be monitored over 2008-09. | September 2008- July 2009 |