

Scrutiny Review of School Exclusions on 26 February 2007

Report Title: Scope and Terms of Reference for the review	
Report of: Chair of the Review Panel	
Wards(s) affected: ALL	
<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>1.1 To note the scope and terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review of School Exclusions.</p>	
<p>2. Recommendations</p> <p>2.1 That the scope and terms of reference for the review as set out in this report be noted</p>	
<p>Contact Officer: Carolyn Banks Principal Scrutiny Support Officer, Tel 0208 489 2965</p>	
<p>3. Executive Summary</p> <p>3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has commissioned a scrutiny review of School Exclusions.</p>	
<p>4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)</p> <p>4.1 N/A</p>	
<p>5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985</p> <p>5.1 There are no background papers relating to this report.</p>	

6. Purpose of the review

- 6.1 The vision set out in *Haringey's Children & Young People's Plan* is that every young person in Haringey should be happy, healthy and safe with a bright future. This echoes the aims of *Every Child Matters*, published by the government in 2004.
- 6.2 To achieve this vision it is crucial that Haringey's young people are encouraged to attend and enjoy school, to achieve national standards and to engage in further/higher education, employment or training when they leave school. Importantly, the Children & Young People's Strategic Partnership aims to ensure all vulnerable children and young people in Haringey receive the necessary support to enjoy the same opportunities as any other child or young person in the borough.
- 6.3 An important step in achieving these aims is reducing the number of pupils excluded from school. This need to keep young people engaged in education is recognised in the Government white paper on reducing re-offending through skills and employment. To illustrate this, the white paper states that 49 per cent of male prisoners were once excluded from school.
- 6.4 Haringey's Children and Young People's Service, local schools and other agencies involved in this area of work take exclusion very seriously. Their efforts are acknowledged in this year's Joint Area Review which indicates that;
- "Effective multi-agency preventative action is resulting in a low level of permanent exclusions from Haringey schools. The level of fixed-term exclusions is high but preliminary figures for 2005/06 indicate that it is falling. Pupils who are permanently excluded, and those who have fixed-term exclusions from BIP schools, are able to access full time educational provision in the Pupil support Centre. The level of re-integration of excluded pupils has improved but partnership work between the youth service and schools to meet the needs of more vulnerable young people is underdeveloped."*
- 6.5 In their quest to deliver exemplary services, the Children and Young People's Service is keen that this issue be scrutinised to identify good practice and possible improvements. They have already started a consultation exercise on improving and developing the provision for young people who are excluded from school. It is anticipated that the scrutiny review will contribute to the development of cost-effective alternative provision.

7. Terms of Reference

The provision made for pupils excluded and at risk of exclusion from schools, including provision made through the Pupil Support Centre; access to alternative provision; successful reintegration into mainstream; proposals for the development of support centres in schools.

8. Cost

The review can be conducted using existing scrutiny officer support . It might also be necessary to meet the cost of inviting experts to speak to the Review Panel and it might be helpful to arrange focus groups of excluded pupils and their parents to ascertain their views.

9. Possible witnesses

1. Officers from Children and Young People's Services, Police, Family liaison officers, schools other agencies, Youth Offending Team etc
2. The Lead Member for Children's services
3. Education and CAMHS Psychologists
4. Department of Education and Skills
5. OFSTED
6. Institute of Public Policy
7. Excluded pupils and their parents (through focus groups)
8. National Children's Bureau
9. Other best practice
10. Local Advisory Centre for Education
11. Head teachers

10. Possible timetable

End of February 2007 - Review panel meeting to consider Children and Young People's Service report on their proposals for reorganising the Pupil Support Service.

March 2007 - Visit to Pupil Support Centres, followed by focus groups with excluded pupils and parents.

April 2007 – Possible meeting to consider experts views

May 2007 - Report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee