

# minutes



Meeting DRUGS EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 9th July 2007 (commencing at 10.30am)

## Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

## COUNCILLORS

Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones (Chair)

Councillor Andy Stewart (Vice Chair)

	Peter Barnes		Sheila Place
	Steve Carr	A	Lynn Sykes
A	John Carter		Parry Tsimbiridis
A	Bruce Laughton		

## CO – OPTEES

A	Mrs P Burbridge
	Mr K Daly
	Mr D Richards
A	Mrs L Wooding

## CHAIR

The appointment by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 May 2007 of Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones as Chair of the Select Committee was noted.

## APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

It was moved and seconded that Councillor Andy Stewart be appointed Vice-Chair of the Select Committee.

## MEMBERSHIP OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE

The membership of the Select Committee was noted.

## APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from:-

Councillor John Carter  
Councillor Bruce Laughton  
Councillor Lynn Sykes  
Paula Burbridge

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS**

Councillor Steve Carr declared a personal interest in matters on the agenda.

## **DRUGS EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE – SCOPE AND WORK PROGRAMME**

Councillor Llewellyn-Jones welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Select Committee, which was expected to agree its final report and recommendations in December 2007. The Select Committee's scope included examining the content and delivery of the current curriculum around drugs education in Nottinghamshire schools. In referring to the scope for the review attached at appendix 1 to the report, Councillor Llewellyn-Jones drew attention to the following areas. In terms of the aims of the review he explained that although the review was aimed across all of the key stages, it was particularly important to focus on the transfer between primary and secondary schools. The other area that required particular attention was regarding key witnesses. He asked the Select Committee for its view on the report and the matters he raised.

Following discussion, the following points emerged:-

The Select Committee felt that it was important to engage with as wide an audience as possible, including parents, representatives from the youth parliament and schools. To consider having small group visits to schools in both rural and urban areas and holding one of the meetings at a school, at which a number of different representatives could be invited.

It was agreed that the word "support" be included in the specific aim of the scrutiny review to read "to consider and review how we can support and best deliver an effective drugs education programme in Nottinghamshire Schools – across all key schools".

The Select Committee noted the work programme.

## **PRESENTATION BY ANNE TROUT – PSDI DRUGS ADVISOR. DRUG EDUCATION ISSUES**

Anne Trout, (PSDI) Drugs Advisor introduced herself and her colleagues who had come to assist in the scene setting presentation.

The Select Committee heard from David Gilbert, Chief Executive of DARE, about 3 of the main issues associated with drugs: the cost to society, feeding the habit and underachievement in school. He referred to work undertaken by the Audit Commission on the cost of drug related incidents and said that he could provide evidence of this if they wished. With regard to feeding the habit, he commented about a scheme piloted by Nottinghamshire on acquisitive crime that had found 65-70% of adult criminals to have an amount of drug found in their blood. In terms of juveniles he commented that these results were nominal because testing was not carried out soon enough after the crime had been committed. Seven to eight years of age was the age when typically offending starts. He said that there had to be much better intervention. Mr Gilbert referred to the problem with prisons being full and the need to prevent someone going there in the first place. The third issue regarding

underachievement in schools, John Morris, School Improvement Officer referred to work that had been undertaken in the Rushcliffe and Ashfield areas to identify the impact on attendance in school on a Friday and Monday. It was found that although there was a small minority whose attendance was affected, there were issues around what support was available. He also pointed out that these children enjoyed going out drinking, which was a problem in itself. It was difficult to quantify underachievement because the information to measure outcomes was not good enough.

Ms Trout referred to the National Policy Framework and said that the national drugs strategy had almost ran its 10 year course and was currently being reviewed and refreshed. Its drive had been to reduce the use of class A drugs. Recent data had shown a decline in their use but a shift to alcohol and cannabis use. She said that the messages coming out of this included the problem with young people's access drugs and alcohol. It was important that more effort and energy be put into key stage two, within the school curriculum. This was not happening nationally. Ms Trout was confident that the new strategy would focus more on primary schools.

Mr Morris referred to some of the local targets in place. In terms of Healthy School Plans, the Children and Young People's Plan was to undergo accreditation in July 2007. The County was the first in the country to lead on a multi agency approach to develop a U&S (You and Substance Use) common policy, which had been written in response to growing concerns about substance use amongst children and young people. He added that concerns had also been highlighted by workers from various agencies for the need to ensure that consistent, coherent messages and a minimum standard of service provision were provided. Work was continuing to bring all information together under one roof.

Ms Trout referred to the Healthy Schools Programmes and how these engaged with the whole community. The involvement of parents at primary level had been well received whilst in secondary schools this was not so positive. In terms of engaging parents Ms Trout commented on programmes that had ran in the Brunt's and Toothill secondary schools and with the turnout rate for both schools being quite different. Work was being undertaken to develop new resources to engage more parents.

Ms Trout explained about the role of the Personal Development of Learners (PDL) team that included the production of model policies for schools and her own role as accreditor. Her role was to ensure that there were clear minimum standards in place and that these were being met. However, only 53% of schools had accessed the policy. Ms Trout gave examples of the facilities including a heroin workshop at the Brunt's School which she suggested the Committee might like to visit.

She referred to some of the programmes in place such as Project Respect which all schools were expected to be using by 2009. The project's priorities were to encourage young people to respect themselves and others and alcohol, drugs and anti-social behaviour.

Following the presentation the Select Committee commented upon the following:-

A question was asked about the incident rate of exclusions in school being drug related offences. Ms Trout explained that were very few drug related incidents and

that she was wanting schools to look deeper into this and keep a record. Members wondered what happened when a child was sent to a pupil referral unit.

They welcomed hearing from the Chief Executive of DARE about the DARE programme.

It was agreed that:-

(1) Ms Trout arrange for members of the Select Committee to attend a heroin workshop at the Brunt's School and to also invite some of the sixth form students along to attend and give evidence.

(2) Information is obtained from schools as to why they don't take up the County's services available to them.

(3) The Select Committee use the October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting to visit a school.

(4) To obtain information on what use is made of the intelligence about the supply of drugs.

The meeting closed at 12.35pm

**CHAIR**

**Ref: 07**