



meeting **DRUGS EDUCATION SELECT COMMITTEE**

date **17 December 2007** **agenda item number** **4**

Report of the Chair of the Drugs Education Select Committee

Work Programme

Purpose of the report

1. To provide an introduction to representatives from a number of organisations who have been invited by the Select Committee to discuss what they consider to be the main issues in the current provision of drugs education.

Background

2. On 21 May the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a review of Drugs Education in Schools. Further to that, on 9 July, the Drugs Education Select Committee received a scene-setting presentation from departmental officers. As part of its evidence gathering the Select Committee received information on the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) programme from Mr Dave Gilbert, Chief Executive of DARE, and from young people who have graduated from the programme. At the meeting on the 19 November a number of organisations attended to discuss their role in drugs education. As part of its evidence gathering process Members have requested additional information from individuals and organisations involved in the provision drugs education.

Visit to Nottingham University

3. As part of the evidence gathering process on 6 December Councillor Llewellyn Jones and Councillor Lonergan met with Dr Max Biddulph at the Centre for Human Relations, Nottingham University. Drugs education together with Personal Social Health Education were discussed in particular its place in initial teacher training and its role in a curriculum which is geared towards academic achievement. A written report will be included in the final papers of the review.

Representatives attending the meeting

- **James Upton, Team Manager, “Face It”**
Face it” attended the last meeting of the Select Committee on the 5th November. Members very interested to hear about the role it has in working with young people to try and prevent exclusions and they have been invited back so that the committee can learn more about their role.
“Face it” offers advice, support, information and treatment for young people under 18 and care leavers up to 21, who are at risk of using/abusing drugs or alcohol. The service works across the county of Nottinghamshire.
- **Nick Romilly, Health Improvement Practitioner Specialist, Nottinghamshire Health Schools, Nottinghamshire County tpct**
The Healthy Schools team supports schools in Nottinghamshire to achieve/maintain Healthy Schools Status, including Drugs Education (policy and practice) as part of Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) theme. Each school is allocated an adviser who supports the development policy and practice in Drug Education. The Adviser works closely with the Local Authority to ensure all school Drug Education policies are in line with U&S Policy and are quality assured. In addition the team (in particular the Health Improvement Practitioner Specialist whose post is partly funded by the DAAT) undertakes specific pieces of work around Drug Education – currently a Smoking and Needle Safety resource for Healthy Schools Toolkit, to support the delivery of Drug Education on the ground.
- **Liz Phillips, Let’s Build**
Let’s Build works with communities across Nottinghamshire to provide information, support, advice and education around substance misuse issues. They offer basic drugs awareness sessions and accredited training courses for young people, parents and carers and professionals. Liz is also a parent of school age children.
- **Superintendent Dave Spink, Nottinghamshire Police.**

Recommendations

4. It is recommended that the Drugs Education Select Committee
 - Considers and asks questions on issues arising from the discussion.
 - Agree any issues around the future work programme

Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones
Chair of the Drug Education Select Committee

Background papers: Nil