



meeting	SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND SUPPORT SELECT COMMITTEE		
date	7 April 2008	agenda item number	5

Report of the Chair of the School Attendance and Support Select Committee

School Attendance and Support

Purpose of the report

1. This report provides:
 - an introduction to the scope for the review set by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and an opportunity for Members to consider the future work programme
 - information about the performance data that will be presented by departmental officers which is intended to provide essential background detail Members will need for the review.

Background

2. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on February 18 2008 commissioned a Select Committee to examine levels of school absence and exclusion in Nottinghamshire, and the policies and procedures that exist to support school attendance.
3. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee set the scope for the review, which is attached as Appendix 1 of this report, and includes
 - How the review links to strategic priorities
 - How the review links to community concern
 - What outcomes the review should seek
 - Specific areas the review should consider
 - Suggested evidence, witnesses and public involvement.
4. The Select Committee is expected to conclude its work in July 2008.

Issues

5. Subject to Member agreement the Select Committee will meet on four occasions:
 - April 7 2008 – 2 pm.
 - April 28 2008 – 2 pm.
 - June 2 2008 – 2 pm.
 - July 7 2008 – 2pm.
6. Rob Lancaster, Head of Education Otherwise Than At School (EOTAS) and Brian Isham, Principal Education Welfare Officer, Children and Young People's Services will attend the meeting to present Members with data concerning current levels of absence in Nottinghamshire schools and discuss the policies and procedures used to encourage/enforce attendance. The Scrutiny review will start by examining :
 - Information about the level of attendance in Nottinghamshire schools compared with the English national average. (Appendix 2 and 3)
 - Data about persistent absence priority secondary schools (Appendix 4, 4a, 4b)
 - Detail about how attendance data is collected. (Appendix 5)
 - Details of enforcement action taken and outcomes (Appendix 6 and 7)
 - Information about truancy patrols carried out and the outcomes (Appendix 8)
 - Information about Children Missing Education and how the local authority is addressing the issue (Appendix 9).

Recommendations

7. It is recommended that School Attendance and Support Committee:
 - consider, and ask questions about the initial information provided to the Select Committee and discuss any issues arising from the presentation
 - consider issues where the Select Committee may require additional information and agree any areas around the future work programme.

Councillor EDW Llewellyn-Jones
Chair of the School Attendance and Support Select Committee

Background papers: nil.