



meeting	<b>SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND SUPPORT SELECT COMMITTEE</b>	
date	<b>7 July 2008</b>	<b>agenda item number</b>

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

### **Report, Children and Young People's Services – Youth Offending Service**

#### **Purpose of the report**

1. To provide members of the Select Committee with an opportunity to consider a report by Kay Carter, Education, Training and Engagement Co-ordinator, Nottinghamshire Youth Offending Services.

#### **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. At the initial meeting on the 7 April the Select Committee considered levels of attendance in Nottinghamshire schools. It considered levels of absence for the last three years, persistent absence secondary schools and actions taken to enforce attendance.
4. The Select Committee focused on schools exclusions at the second meeting on 28 April. Members examined data which included the number of, and reasons for, fixed period and permanent exclusions; actions taken to reduce secondary school exclusions; arrangements for the provision of alternative arrangements and processes used to return pupils to mainstream schools.
5. At the third meeting on the 2 June the Select Committee heard evidence from a representative from the Department for Children, Schools and Families who works with a number of authorities to improve strategies for behaviour and attendance. Senior practitioners who are leading and managing improvements in identified persistent absence schools outlined the strategies they use and the advances made to decrease absence. Members also received additional data previously requested concerning school absence and exclusion plus

information relating to secondary schools serving the 20% most deprived communities.

## **Issues**

6. Kay Carter, Education, Training and Employment (ETE) Co-ordinator Nottinghamshire Youth Offending Services will be attending the Select Committee to present and answer questions arising from the report. Kay's role includes co-ordinating the work of 7 education workers in the service, developing initiatives, and work to meet the Youth Justice Board Targets on inclusion of young offenders in education, training and employment. The report considers the link between absence/exclusion and anti social behaviour and criminality.

## **Recommendations**

7. It is recommended that
  - the School Attendance and Support Select Committee:
    - consider and ask questions on the information provided in the presentation to the Select Committee

**Councillor Edward-Llewellyn Jones**  
**Chair of the School Attendance and Support Committee**

Background papers: nil.