

# minutes



Meeting SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND SUPPORT SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 7 July 2008 (commencing at 2.00pm)

## **Membership**

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

## **COUNCILLORS**

Edward Llewellyn-Jones (Chair)

Brian Wombwell (Vice Chair)

John Carter

S Fielding

A A Haynes

A P Lally

P Owen

M Suthers

L Sykes

## **STATUTORY CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

- A Mr E Hayes (Diocese of Nottingham)  
Mr D Richards (Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham)  
A Mrs I Wooding (Parent Governor)  
Vacancy (Parent Governor)

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 2 June 2008, having been circulated were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

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

None.

## **PRESENTATION BY DEREK HIGTON, HEAD OF YOUTH SUPPORT SERVICES AND CHRIS O'BRIEN, SERVICE MANAGER, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Mr Higton, Head of Youth Support Service delivered a presentation to Members on the Youth Service's role in supporting young people. He explained that their relationship was quite different from others in that they were built on the young person's terms. They worked mainly with teenagers who were at risk of exclusion, excluded or required help to attend and achieve at school.

In terms of support to schools, Mr Highton said that through the work of county wide teams and seven district youth work teams, the services delivered to about half of the county's secondary schools and the Nottinghamshire Learning Centres. The schools teams delivered a range of support including specialist courses covering life skills and vocational training to short-term work to re-engage young people with low self esteem. In terms of crime and disorder the service also ran workshop sessions to deal with anger management. There was also additional support offered to young people outside normal school hours and support to persistent absentee schools.

In terms of the service Mr Highton said that there were always issues around funding and prioritisation as well as balancing between traditional and specialist provision.

Members were invited to comment and ask questions on the presentation.

In response to a question by Mr Richards, Mr Lancaster explained that the potential for absenteeism increased as the young person got older.

There was discussion about early intervention in primary schools to encourage young people to attend school, and the possible root cause of absenteeism. Mr Highton said that the young person's age and geographical area that they lived had a bearing on this. Early intervention work was helping to identify children and families at risk.

Councillor Stella Smedley commented on the decline in youth clubs due to the youth service being too busy. She asked how a young person at risk was identified and how many they thought were missed. Mr Hesketh, Policy and Performance Manager, Education Otherwise than at School (EOTAS) said that of the 2,500 young persons excluded at one point in secondary schools only 5% were potential permanent exclusions. It was very difficult to find indicators that point to a child being at risk without a vast amount of money and big net.

Councillor Stella Smedley expressed concern at those young people who came to school when they liked and did not always sleep at home that were likely to be missed by the services. It was explained that there was early intervention work taking place and integrated services were moving towards this. Young people were being picked up much earlier on. PC Diane Curley also commented on the links between the schools final warnings officer and the Youth Offending Service.

#### **KAY CARTER, EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT (ETE) CO-ORDINATOR, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE YOUTH OFFENDING SERVICE**

Ms Kay Carter, Education, Training and Employment (ETE) Co-ordinator for Notts Youth Offending Service (YOS) presented information on the report previously circulated to Members. Ms Carter explained her role as co-ordinator for the YOS that included developing initiatives and work to meet the Youth Justice Board targets on inclusion of young offenders in education, training and employment. The service had seven education workers who were allocated a young person when they were convicted at court. Their work involved looking at

reasons for not attending school. A young person was less likely to re-offend through being engaged.

The role of the YOS education worker was crucial to the Youth Justice Board education, training and employment strategy, to strengthen links with post 16 providers through the Learning and Skills Council and partnership with schools, colleges and the Local Authority.

Ms Carter drew member's attention to the comparable data for 2007/08. In Nottinghamshire 78.6% of young people were engaged in education, training and employment at the end of a supervised court order compared with 71.1% nationally.

Members also heard about the Youth Inclusion Support Programme (YISP) that provided the Youth Offending Service with preventative work for young people between the ages of 8 and 13. Referrals for YISP were accepted from a wide range of partner agencies.

There was discussion about the tracking of those young people who often moved about, who were too concerned about life outside of school and how the services expected them to perform. Also how families were supported that could not cope.

It was explained that there were a number of fail safes in place. Work took place with the City's Youth Offending Team to track young people down. Police also received a list of names of those who have moved. In terms of children missing education, local education officers had developed a role over the past 12 months to chase, track and return young people to school. The engagement of services, closer working relationships and information sharing were paramount to the safety of young people. It was acknowledged that some families did require intensive work and that many would not volunteer for support.

#### **PRESENTATION BY PC DIANE CURLY, SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE**

Pc Curly talked to members about her role and responsibilities as school liaison officer. She explained that there were four police liaison officers spread thinly. Each had four secondary schools an Learning Centre and other special schools. Their work had changed since the introduction of the Every Child Matters agenda in terms of working more closely with other agencies and sharing of information. Their work included:-

- Truancy sweeps
- Follow up on non attendance
- Support EWS home visits

Members also heard about the final warning clinics that triggered the YOS who consider the appropriateness of the warning and the most suitable support for the young person ie YOS or YISP. If the young person was 10 years or younger and had committed a criminal offence then the matter would be brought to the attention of agencies to work with the family. A lot of work was undertaken to try

and keep young people out of the criminal justice system. It was also acknowledged that young people out of school were vulnerable and likely to be a victim of crime.

**\*\*\*\*\*PRESENTATION BY CHERYL LANGMEAD, INTEGRATED SERVICES, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

Ms Langmead informed members about the integrated locality working and Joint Access Teams (JAT) to co-ordinate multi agency support for young people at risk of exclusion.

The aims of the integrated services included the facilitation of early intervention and improvement of access to services. This work was carried out through Joint Access Teams built around a family of schools and was key to the structure of the team. Members heard in depth about the make up of the team and its key/primary objectives in supporting a child or young person in a holistic way. At July 2008 it was reported that there were 18 operational across Nottinghamshire covering 21 families of schools. It was expected to have JATs for all families of schools by Spring 2010.

The focus of JAT is to adopt a strengths based solution focussed approach, to support young person, have access to wide range of services outside those represented at JAT. Meets monthly within the community involved/made up of local practitioners.

Uses CAF

Makes decisions and informs interventions

Pg 6 handout

**SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH DIRECTORATE, CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS SERVICE**

Caroline ....

Not yet countywide, a government funded initiative to reduce absence in schools FIP team works with families who have had an eviction notice. Had been operating for one year. Work very intensive. Workers only have  $\frac{3}{4}$  on their books. Once a referral has been made Police and anti social behaviour team.

Key worker can visit as many times a day as needed and work to identify crisis points in family. The aim is to work with family as a whole and individual basis symptom and causes.

Intensive work really does work.

Notts 20 families on books

- Children often do not attend school and when do behaviour mirrors what do in streets.

- Build up quick relationship with school/EWO, generally parents did not attend, illiterate got own issues.
- Advantage of parenting groups over other agencies, they are ordered to attend.
- Parent angry when finding out about child mechanisms for dealing with it.

Family resource worker team another intensive service brought in when an eviction order not served. Family at risk of breakdown 6-8 week intensive work to prevent young person coming into care.

Trigger for parents when close to eviction order.

The meeting closed at ??

**CHAIR**