



meeting	EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE		
date	13 September 2005	agenda item number	8

REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING SELECT COMMITTEE

Work Programme 2005 - 2006

Purpose of Report

1. This report sets out the final prioritised work programme for the Education and Lifelong Learning Select Committee for 2005 - 2006.

Information and Advice

Background

2. During the period September 2004 to July 2005, the Committee scrutinised a wide range of information on key aspects of performance of schools and the Education Department. The scrutiny covered the following broad categories:
 - annual and termly information and data on key aspects of performance of the LEA. This included reports on additional support for schools in difficulty, analysis of Ofsted inspection reports and data on exclusions and attendance
 - reports from the Cabinet Member for Education
 - major LEA plans and progress on the implementation of these plans including the education development plan, the education department strategic plan and the LEA's post Ofsted inspection action plan
 - study group activities covering the dissemination of good practice and the performance of schools in former coalfield areas.

Changes to the operation of the Committee

3. A report proposing several changes to the operation of the committee was taken to the meeting of 28 June 2005. The report set out criteria for including an item on the scrutiny agenda and recommended a set of topics for discussion which could be added to by Committee members. These recommendations were agreed. It was also agreed that the items for the work of the Committee would be prioritised and set out in a sequence for the year.

The work programme

4. The following prioritised work programme is proposed:
 - Annual Performance Assessment for children's services
 - the Education Development Plan 2005 - 2006
 - The Children Act - update on implications
 - Appeal Panel decisions (in particular where inconsistencies have occurred)
 - risk management: theft from schools
 - pupil behaviour including exclusions and the implications for pupil achievement
 - travel to school - school travel plans
 - change of catchment areas and implications for school transport
 - appointment and retention of school governors
 - the statementing process for pupils with special educational needs
 - reorganisation of schools in Newark
 - safety of pupils going to school, including on school sites
 - Building Schools for the Future

Statutory and Policy Implications

5. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, Crime and Disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report.

RECOMMENDATION

6. That the Committee:-

- (1) note the report and agree the prioritised programme for the year
- (2) identify any additional items for the scrutiny programme for the year
- (3) identify those issues for scrutiny by study groups and how many study groups there should be at any one time.
- (4) consider whether to continue with short post-meeting briefings.

COUNCILLOR KEVAN WAKEFIELD

Chair of the Education and Lifelong Learning Select Committee

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Nil.

M19C1382