



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**

### **Presentation by Nottinghamshire Police**

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

1. To introduce Diane Curley, a School Liaison/Youth Issues Officer, Nottinghamshire Police.

#### **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. Diane Curley, Nottinghamshire Police will be attending the Select Committee to discuss, and answer questions, relating to her role as a School Liaison/Youth Issues Officer based in school. Her responsibilities include working proactively within schools, and with other agencies, to keep young people out of the criminal justice system and, working with Education Welfare Officers on attendance issues supporting late gate and truancy sweeps.

## **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.