

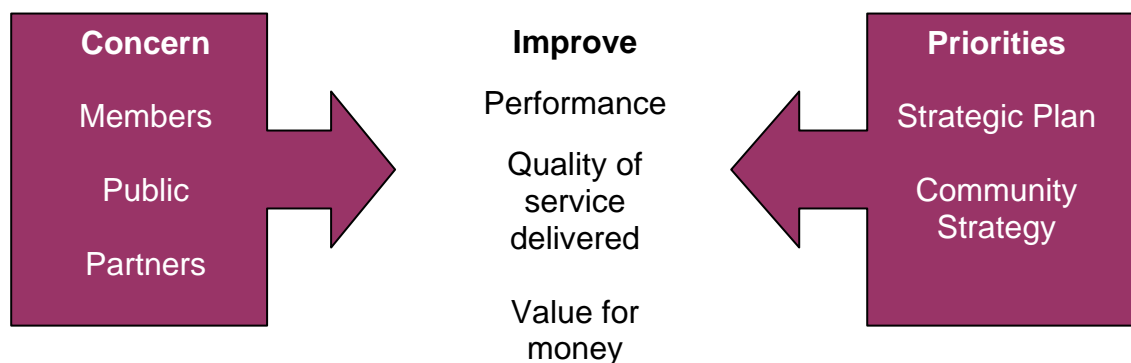
Draft Scope – School Attendance and Support Select Committee

Scoping Questions –

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider the following questions when scoping a Scrutiny review:

Issues for Scrutiny should reflect:

- i. Concern of Members, the Public or Partners
- ii. Strategic Priorities for the delivery of services and
- iii. Clear Outcomes to improve performance, value for money or to change the priorities of the Council.



A. Aims

What are the aims of the scrutiny review?

Examine levels of school absence and exclusion in Nottinghamshire. Identify the links between school absence and exclusion; education welfare and assess the effectiveness of policies and procedures in these areas.

How does the scrutiny review link to priorities?

Nottinghamshire County Council's Strategic Plan 2006-2010, also called "All Together Better", sets out our part in delivering the key objectives of the Community Strategy which sets out the priorities of the County Council and the wider community.

The review links to the priorities:

- **Safer and stronger** – a safer place to live with a strong sense of community which includes safeguarding children and young people.
- **Healthier** – improved health and wellbeing for people which includes working to ensure that all children and young people have opportunities to enjoy themselves, broaden their experiences, and improve health and well being.
- **Learning and earning** – help for every one to achieve their potential and improve the educational attainment of children and their appreciation of learning.

How does this review link to community concern?

Concerns about possible links to crime and anti social behaviour and the way that young people who are absent or excluded can influence the behaviour in school of other young people.

What outcomes are sought?

To ensure the policies and procedures currently in place are working effectively with regard to authorised absence and to reduce unauthorised absence.

To ensure policies and procedures are currently in place and working effectively to support young people to attend in school

To ensure that policy and procedure in relation to reducing exclusions and providing for permanently excluded children out of school are effective

The review should seek to make recommendations to inform policy development in reducing the number of days young people are absent from school.

Which specific areas will the review examine?

Current number of days currently lost in Nottinghamshire schools due to authorised and unauthorised absence.

How the data is collected and if is data collected in a standard format across the county?

Current levels of exclusion and permanent exclusion. What are the criteria for exclusion, are they the same across all Nottinghamshire schools?

Are there specific geographical areas in Nottinghamshire where young people are more likely to be absent/excluded? Are there any specific reasons for this and do targeted interventions exist in these areas.

What current procedures exist to encourage/enforce attendance?

What support services are available to families to assist pupils to attend and reduce their chances of being excluded?

Links between school absence/exclusion and anti social behaviour and criminality.

To what extent absence and exclusion limits opportunities and curtails life chances in adulthood.

What happens when a young person has been excluded, what educational opportunities are available to them?

What mechanisms exist to track excluded pupils?

If excluded, are young people more likely to become socially unsupported?

What information and services are available to young people who are socially unsupported?

How efficient are truancy sweeps (does the County Council have truancy sweeps)?

Comparisons of levels of absence/exclusions in comparable authorities and examples of best practice to encourage attendance.

The following are some suggested key lines of enquiry general to each scrutiny review undertaken; they can be tailored for each specific scrutiny review. The Committee is invited to consider the key lines of enquiry for this review.

Some suggested key Lines of Enquiry

- Are the services achieving what they set out to achieve?
- What can we improve?
- How do we compare with others?
- Are we doing what users / non users / local residents want?
- What are the strategic and operational risks?
- What intelligence is available to predict future change?
- Is there effective partnership working?
- Why are we doing/providing this?

B. Timetable

When will the review commence

March 2008

When will the review conclude?

June 2008?

C. Information and consultees

What information do Members require to enable them to start work on the review?

Are there any key witnesses/visits/documents

Representatives from Nottinghamshire County Council's Children's and Young Peoples Service

- Education Welfare Officers
- The Youth Service
- The Youth Offending Team
- Teenage Pregnancy Partnership
- School Improvement Advisers
- Inclusion Services
- Education Access and Extended Services

Communities Department

Probation Services

DAAT

Social Care

Nottinghamshire Police

Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service

Travel Industry Representatives.

Schools Connexions

How will the review involve the public?

The review will feature on the website allowing the public to contact relevant officers.

D. Resources

Support for the review will be coordinated and led by the Scrutiny Team as part of their normal duties.

Councillors selected to sit on the Committee will be expected to allocate time within their diaries to facilitate scheduled meetings.

Experts from various organisations will be invited to contribute to the review
Representatives from the Children and Young Peoples and the Communities Department will be invited to participate in supporting the review.

E. Departmental View (provided by Rob Lancaster Head of EOTAS)

This scrutiny review is planned to occur at the same time as a major review of Inclusion and special educational needs which involves a large number of stakeholders, particularly schools. Councillor O'Riordan is the senior elected member linked to this review which is sponsored by Anthony May. This review is already underway and is due to report in September 2008.

There may be opportunities for elected members to examine some of the interim findings and outcomes which are emerging from this review which has a number of lines of enquiry which link to the scope of the scrutiny review.

Scoping Questions

The Topic Select Committee itself will be asked to consider the following questions when scoping the scrutiny review:

A. Timetable	
When will the Topic Select Committee meet to consider the review – frequency, location	

B. Information and consulters Who would Members request information from Visits Does the review require any visits Where and with whom	
C. How the Community will be consulted, informed, and involved How will the review involve the public	
D. How the effectiveness of the review will be measured After the review, what will assist Members to look back and examine the lessons learned?	

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will set the following

A. Aims What are the aims of the review What outcomes are sought How does the review link to priorities How does the review link to community concern Which specific areas will the review examine
B. Timetable When will the review commence When will the review conclude
C. Information and consultees What information do Members require to enable them to start work on the review Are there any key witnesses/visits How could the review involve the public
D. Resources Are there any specific resource implications for the review

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