



meeting	SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND SUPPORT SELECT COMMITTEE	
date	7 July 2008	agenda item number

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

Presentation by Children and Young People's Services – Social Care and Health

Purpose of the report

1. To introduce an officer from the Social Care and Health Directorate, Children and Young People's 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. An officer from the Social Care and Health Directorate, Children and Young People's Services will attend the meeting to talk about the social contribution made to support children and families where attendance at school is causing concern. It will include discussion of the Family Intervention Project that works to reduce anti-social behaviour in families, and the Family Resource Service.

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.