



meeting PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

date 17 February 2003

agenda item number

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

### **Employment of Children: Decisions taken under Delegated Powers**

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. This report provides information on decisions in respect of the regulation of child employment, taken by the Director of Education or other nominated officers in the Education Department under delegated powers H 4.1 and H 4.2 in the scheme of delegation to Chief Officers approved by the County Council.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### **Background**

2. The scheme of delegation to officers provides for the Director of Education, or other nominated officers in the Education Department, to make a range of decisions in defined circumstances. Some of these decisions are subject to specific consultation with the Cabinet Member for Education and are reported through the regular Education Portfolio meetings. There are, however, a large number of other decisions, involving individual pupils or detailed, routine decision making, which are not so reported but which it has been agreed will be the subject of annual report to the Education Portfolio meeting. Decisions relating to the regulation of child employment have also to be reported to the Public Protection Committee.
3. The Local Education Authority is responsible, in law, for monitoring the part-time employment of children and issuing work permits to those young people who work part-time in the county under the Nottinghamshire bye-laws. Similarly, the LEA has a statutory responsibility to licence children, living in the county, who are employed in entertainment, such as television or stage work, under the terms of the Children and Young Persons Acts and the Children (Performance) Regulations.
4. The County Council's scheme of delegation to Chief Officers provides that decisions in such matters are taken by officers in the Education Department. Details of the decisions taken in relation to child employment, during the

period 1 September 2001 to 31 August 2002, are summarised below. Details of individual pupils are not provided, for reasons of confidentiality.

Power to be delegated (County Council delegated power number in brackets)	Appropriate officer	No of cases in the 2001/02 academic year
(H 4.1) To monitor the part-time employment of children and to issue work permits to those young people who have a part-time job in accordance with Section 559 of the 1996 Education Act and the Nottinghamshire bye-laws	Officers employed in the Education Welfare service	980 children were issued with work permits
(H 4.2) To licence the employment of children in entertainment in accordance with the various requirements of the Children and Young Persons Act of 1933 and 1963 and the Children (Performance) Regulations 1968 as amended	Principal Education Welfare Officer	323 children licensed

## 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:-
  - (1) the Public Protection Committee consider this report;
  - (2) a further annual report be made at the appropriate time, detailing the decisions taken by officers under delegated powers during the 2002/03 academic year.

**PAM TULLEY**  
Director of Education

### **Head of Legal Services Comments (JF)**

7. The legal responsibilities of the Authority are as set out in the report.

### **County Treasurer's Comments (PMC)**

8. None.

### **Background Papers Available for Inspection**

Nil.

### **Electoral Division(s) Affected**

Potentially all electoral divisions in Nottinghamshire.

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