

Report



meeting **CABINET**

date 6th July 2011

agenda item number **7**

Report of the Chair of the Education Standing Committee

Inclusion in Schools: Benefits and Challenges

Purpose of the report

- 1 This paper presents for consideration by the Cabinet, recommendations from a scrutiny review of inclusion in schools.

Background

- 2 The County Council's Education Standing Committee undertakes reviews on issues that are of concern to Members. Each review reports its findings and can make recommendations for improvement.
- 3 Members of the Education Standing Committee recently completed a review which examined the issues associated with inclusion in schools with a focus on the increasingly complex needs of some young people.
- 4 The Review recognised that the inclusion policy in Nottinghamshire is working well and that schools actively and effectively support the policy.
- 5 A copy of the Review is attached as an appendix to this report. The Cabinet is invited to provide a response to the recommendations.
- 6 For ease of reference a summary of the review's recommendations is set out below:

Innovative ways of working

- 1. Models of good practice used for partnership working and, the allocation of resources for special educational needs, (for example the Newark Town Project) should be considered and implemented by other clusters of families of schools.**

- 2. Achievement for All has been highly successful. The learning from the project should be shared, promoted and developed with all schools**

Behaviour

- 3. No young person should remain within a learning centre for more than one term. Challenging targets for reintegration should be set to achieve this.**
- 4. Alternative pathways to specialist provision should be available for those children for whom a mainstream placement is assessed as being inappropriate.**
- 5. Alternatives to Learning Centre provision should be developed for excluded children of primary age.**

Specialist support

- 6. The level of service that schools receive from the Educational Psychology Service should be enhanced through collaborative working with specialist trained teachers**
- 7. As a result of concerns raised by head teachers, the chair of the education standing committee should write to health service commissioners and the Children Service Executive expressing concern about the impact of reductions in health service provision on mainstream and special schools**

Post 16

- 8. An evaluation of the opportunities that exist for young people with SEND in employment education and training.**

Recommendation

- 7 It is recommended that:
- 8 Cabinet considers the report and recommendations of the Inclusion in Schools: Benefits and Challenges Review - which are set out in Appendix 1 to this report - and that an appropriate Cabinet Member attends a meeting of the Education Standing Committee within 2 months to provide a response.

Councillor Liz Yates
Chair of the Education Standing Committee

Legal Services Comments (SG 16/06/2011)

It is appropriate for Cabinet to consider the content of this report. By virtue of paragraph 1.1.5 of the Delegation to Cabinet in Part 3 of the Constitution (Responsibility for Functions) Cabinet is to receive reports scrutinising the exercise of County Council functions from the Overview and Standing Committees, providing the proposals are consistent with the existing Budget and Policy Framework.

Comments of the Service Director (Finance)

There are no specific financial implications arising from the report.
(MB 17/06/11)

Background Papers:

nil

Electoral Divisions affected:

all.