

APPENDIX 3 CONSULTATION SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS OF RESPONSES

CHILDREN MISSING EDUCATION STRATEGY

Qu 1. A total of 10 responses were received to the public consultation

- 1 school governors
- 1 parent
- 6 local authority employees
- 1 education trustee
- 1 parish council clerk on behalf of the parish council

Qu 2. How strongly do you agree or disagree that the proposed Nottinghamshire Children Missing Education Strategy enables the Local Authority to undertake their legal duty under Section 436A to identify, as far as possible, children missing education?

90% of respondents were in agreement, with 1 respondent disagreeing. It was commented that the proposed actions should enable Nottinghamshire to fulfil its legal duty but with the caveat that the local authority relies upon schools to provide information and that once obtained, the information needs to be acted on in a timely manner to be effective. A concern was raised about the difficulties of identifying Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children missing education.

The proposed Nottinghamshire CME Strategy is intended to guide the work of local authority officers, schools and other agencies in the procedures and practices to be followed in order to track, monitor and maintain contact with children and young people at risk of or already missing education. This will prevent vulnerable children and young people becoming 'unknown' to relevant professionals and therefore becoming even more high risk.

Qu 3. How strongly do you agree or disagree that the proposed Nottinghamshire Children Missing Education Strategy adequately describes the support and challenge that is offered in respect of children and young people who are registered at a school but who do not appear to be accessing or being provided with their educational entitlement?

Again 90% of respondents were in agreement with 1 person disagreeing. Respondents again commented on the need for information to be acted on promptly, and concerns were also raised by one respondent about schools' use of part time timetables and "grey exclusions"

The proposed Nottinghamshire CME Strategy explains that an additional Pupil Missing Education (PME) practitioner is employed within the Fair Access Team to review data returned to the Local Authority by Schools detailing children and young people not in receipt of their full education entitlement (reduced timetable) or educated in commissioned alternative provision.

The referral process for any service or school to report concern that a child is either CME or PME is outlined in Appendix B of the proposed CME Strategy document. This includes children who have no school roll, pupils accessing inappropriate part-time provision, pupils accessing inappropriate alternative provision, pupils who have unmet SEND or SEMH needs who are not attending their allocated school place and children registered as Elective Home Education but not accessing learning.

Qu 4. How strongly do you agree or disagree that the key priorities in the CME action plan are appropriate to support the effective delivery of the Children Missing Education Strategy?

One respondent disagreed, with the remainder either being in agreement or neither agreeing nor disagreeing. One respondent commented on the need for all partners to fully engage with the process for it to be effective

The CME Action Plan, which is included as Appendix C of the proposed Nottinghamshire CME Strategy, identifies the following priorities:

1. Development and implementation of a revised Nottinghamshire CME strategy
2. Strengthened locality knowledge of vulnerable children and processes to support them
3. More robust processes to support vulnerable children and young people who are without a school place or access to education
4. Strengthening systems to track and review pupils not accessing full time provision
5. Review of processes for supporting children and young people who are registered as Electively Home Educated in the light of revised legislation

Qu 5. Are there any other vulnerable groups of students that you feel should be detailed at Appendix D of the Children Missing Education Strategy?

Please list

Only 1 respondent provided an answer to this question. This person felt that it should also include children whose parent(s) have a diagnosis, or who are displaying possible symptoms of, a mental health issue. This would pose obvious difficulties in terms of identification and confidentiality but can be further considered if deemed appropriate.

The proposed Nottinghamshire CME Strategy explains that DFE guidance specifically identifies vulnerable groups as pupils at risk of harm/ neglect, children of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families, children of Service Personnel, missing children and runaways, children and young people supervised by the Youth Justice System, children who cease to attend a school and children of migrant families. It also acknowledges the recent Timpson review, which also highlighted the link between children who are excluded either on a fixed term or permanently and the time they miss from education and makes recommendations to try and address this.

The proposed Nottinghamshire CME Strategy actually lists a much broader group of children in Appendix D of the document and also identifies the Local Authority Services responsible for each of these groups. The Strategy recognises that the numbers overall are relatively small and recognises that Nottinghamshire County Council has a responsibility to identify these vulnerable children and young people individually to ensure that its resources are targeted on those who need them most.

Qu 6. Do you have any further comments regarding the proposed strategy or are there any changes you feel need to be made to it?

3 respondents made additional comments. The concerns raised were largely regarding schools' engagement with the strategy. One described the issues of "own admission authority schools who do not participate in the in-year coordinated scheme".

The vast majority of respondents expressed agreement with the proposed strategy and it is therefore recommended that the Nottinghamshire Children Missing Education Strategy, consulted upon and included in the Committee Report as Appendix 2, be accepted