

**REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S  
COMMITTEE****POLICY STATEMENT FOR SCHOOLS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To invite the Committee to approve the proposed revised Policy Statement for Schools (**Appendix 1**) as recommended by the Children and Young People's Committee.

**Information and Advice****Background**

2. The Policy Statement for Schools 2010 has been a key document that has underpinned the development of new partnerships with schools around both admissions and school improvement. Whilst the revised policy, September 2012, remains broadly the same, it now reflects the responsibilities for place planning and admissions. The Local Authority retains a statutory duty to ensure both sufficiency of places as well as the coordination of the admissions process and protocols, particularly around the admission of vulnerable pupils.
3. It should be noted that the Policy Statement for Schools 2010 successfully provided the underpinning principles and rationale to ensure that governing bodies have been able to make the decisions around governance and leadership that are in the best interests of children and parents. Whilst national data for 2012 remains unvalidated, it is to be acknowledged that the outcomes in relation to 5 good GCSEs including English and mathematics has increased by 2.7% to 60.3% against a national drop of 0.4%. At Key Stage 4, Nottinghamshire is now 1.7% above the national average of 58.6% with its national rankings improving from being 79<sup>th</sup> in 2011 to now being 51<sup>st</sup>.
4. The amended Policy Statement for Schools now incorporates the responsibilities of the Local Authority to ensure sufficiency of school places, with increased diversity of provision through academies; free schools and studio schools are anticipated in Nottinghamshire in the foreseeable future. The policy also now acknowledges the Local Authority's responsibility to ensure that the Admissions Code 2012 is implemented consistently across the County with particular attention focussed on securing school places for the most vulnerable, including looked after children, children with special educational needs and disabilities and other 'fair access' vulnerable pupils which includes those excluded or at risk of exclusion.

## **Other Options Considered**

5. As the Policy Statement for Schools 2010 has supported accelerated school improvement, particularly within the secondary phase, and reflects both national and local educational policy, it is not appropriate to consider any other options at this time.

## **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

6. The revised Policy Statement (**Appendix 1**) has been noted and endorsed by the Children and Young People's Committee and is recommended to Policy Committee for approval.
7. The current Policy Statement for Schools 2010 has supported the creation and maintenance of new relationships with schools that have been, and continue to be, focussed on ensuring the provision of good and outstanding schools across the County.
8. The revised Policy Statement for Schools 2012 now reflects the core responsibilities of the restructured 'Support to Schools Service' for place planning, the admissions process and for school improvement in maintained schools that may cause concern.
9. The revised Policy Statement for Schools 2012 reflects the statutory duties of the Local Authority but underpins these statutory responsibilities within the context of partnership working with all schools attended by Nottinghamshire pupils.
10. The revised policy also acknowledges the principles and protocols agreed with all Nottinghamshire schools, academies and academy sponsors following consultation, which is available as a Background Paper.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **Implications for Service Users**

12. All schools have been consulted with regard to the revised Policy Statement for Schools as well as the protocols and actions.

## **Crime and Disorder Implications**

13. The Strategy and commissioning proposals take account of the Council's duties to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to prevent youth offending and re-offending under the Crime and Disorder Act (1998). It also includes measures to ensure the Local Authority can respond to measures within the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act (2012) on the transfer of responsibilities for funding juvenile remands through the creation of specific supported accommodation provision for young people on bail.

## **Safeguarding of Children Implications**

14. This Policy Statement has been formulated with regard to safeguarding all children. The principles and protocols document, available as a Background Paper, specifically acknowledges the importance of ensuring Fair Access to a school place as a potential safeguarding issue as children and young people without a school place are at risk.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That:

- 1) the proposed revised Policy Statement for Schools be approved.

**Councillor Philip Owen**  
**Chairman of the Children and Young People's Committee**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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### **Constitutional Comments (NAB 27/11/12)**

15. Policy Committee has authority to approve the recommendation in this report.

### **Financial Comments (NDR 29/11/12)**

16. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Background Papers**

Policy Statement for Schools 2010  
Policy Statement for Schools - Principles and Protocols

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

All.

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