

SECOND MAJOR REVIEW – ACCESS TO EDUCATION FOR HILLINGDON'S VULNERABLE CHILDREN

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REASON FOR ITEM

To consider the draft scoping report on this Committee's major review into Access to Education for Hillingdon's Vulnerable Children which had been agreed as a review topic at the last meeting of this Committee.

Officers will provide Members with a brief presentation on the topic of access to education within Hillingdon which will give an overview of some of the key issues facing vulnerable children and young people in accessing education outside of the normal admissions process.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

1. To give consideration to the detail contained in the draft scoping report and to make comments and suggestions on the detail contained within.
2. To request clarification and further information from officers.
3. To agree the scoping report and the witnesses that will be required for the Committee to conduct its review.

INFORMATION

1. At the 21 November 2012 meeting of this Committee, approval was given to the Committee undertaking its second major review of the Municipal Year on local arrangements for access to education for vulnerable children in Hillingdon.
2. Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring every child of statutory school age (currently 5-16) is receiving full-time education. Over the past few years there has been a significant increase in the number of casual, in-year move-ins to the Borough's Schools. Most pupils are dealt with via the normal admissions process and are offered a school place accordingly. However, more vulnerable young people may require additional support to find a suitable placement. These pupils include Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children, those who have been off-rolled by a previous school, those unable to attend a school in their local area due to pressure on place, etc.

3. The aim of the review is to assess Hillingdon's current arrangements and future plans for ensuring that access to education for vulnerable pupils is timely and effective. Particular attention will be given to the key barriers facing vulnerable children and young people in accessing education outside of the normal admissions processes.
4. The review will identify areas for improvement and future development and, if needed, will bring forward positive and practical policy recommendations.

PAPERS WITH THE REPORT

Draft Scoping Report (Appendix A).