

PERSISTENT ABSENTEEISM - WITNESS SESSION ONE

Committee name	Children, Families and Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Ryan Dell, Democratic Services
Papers with report	Briefing note: Attendance update March 2024 Updated Scoping report
Ward	All

HEADLINES

Following its meeting on 15 November 2023, the Select Committee agreed as its major review to consider the issue of attendance/ persistent absence of statutory school age children in Hillingdon, including how this has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A child who only attends school for 90% or less of the time is classed as a persistent absentee.

It is intended that the review will support the work of the Attendance Support service in helping to shape its ways of working, identifying areas of weakness and how overall engagement with key stakeholders can be improved.

Officers are in attendance to answer questions from Members, and an updated scoping report is attached.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee ask questions of officers as part of its review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Please see the attached update scoping report and briefing note.

Lines of Enquiry

Lines of enquiry can be expanded as the review progresses or included in relevant witness session reports. However, lines of enquiry may include:

- Establishing the historical background of persistent absenteeism in statutory school age children in Hillingdon.
- Exploring what support functions are in place and whether these can be improved.
- The nature of partnership working and how it is combined in practice.
- The Council's responsibilities towards young people and ensuring their access to education.
- Officers' experiences of dealing with persistent absence.
- Challenges and barriers faced by young people in attending school.
- Improvements/ steps that the Council can implement to encourage improved attendance.

Implications on related Council policies

A statutory role of the Select Committees is to undertake reviews and make recommendations to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction. Reviews selected should be consistent with the Council's policy and budgetary framework.

How this report benefits Hillingdon residents

None at this stage, pending any findings and recommendations devised in the final report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any recommendations developed as a result of this review may have financial implications and these will be assessed at that stage.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The key pieces of legislation are as follows:

- The Education Act 1996
- The Children Act 1989
- The Education and Inspections Act 2006
- The Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2006
- The Education (Parenting Contracts and Parenting Orders) (England) Regulations 2007
- The Education (Penalty Notices) (England) Regulations 2007

BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL.