

PERSISTENT ABSENTEEISM - WITNESS SESSION FIVE

Committee name	Children, Families and Education Select Committee
Officer reporting	Ryan Dell, Democratic Services
Papers with report	Updated Scoping report
Ward	All

HEADLINES

As part of its review, Members were keen to hear from officers regarding child protection and safeguarding of young people who are persistently absent.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Children, Families and Education Select Committee meet with officers and ask questions pertaining to the review.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Officers attending are:

- Alex Coman – Director for Safeguarding, Partnership and Quality Assurance
- Donna Hugh – Safeguarding Manager

Please see the attached scoping report.

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.