

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 December 2009

POLICY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS UPDATE: ACHIEVING EDUCATIONAL INCLUSION, APRIL 2003

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Strategic Priority: Learning City

**Corporate Improvement Priority: Delivering Customer Focused Services,
Efficient and Effective Council**

1. Why has this report come to the Committee?

- 1.1 This report is presented to Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee to update them on progress arising from the recommendations contained within the 2003 Policy Review on Achieving Educational Inclusion.
- 1.2 This report also requests Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee to agree to accept regular updates on policy review recommendations.

2. Background

- 2.1 In June 2002, the then Education Review Committee listed areas of the Local Education Authority that they felt could be improved through scrutiny and review. The outcome of this was the first in-depth policy review, which assessed a specific area of education within Sunderland, namely Achieving Educational Inclusion in 2003.
- 2.2 In subsequent years an in-depth policy review was undertaken by the Committee:
 - Achieving Education Inclusion, 2003
 - Gender and Achievement, 2004
 - Out of School Hours Learning (Study Support), 2005
 - Schools – the new centres of community (2006)
 - Service for Children in Care (2007)
 - Multi-agency approach to youth disorder (2008)
- 2.3 Each policy review contained a number of recommendations for Children's Services to consider when designing and delivering their services.

3. Current position

- 3.1 In 2003, the focus of the first policy review was Achieving Educational Inclusion.
- 3.2 The overarching aim of the review was to examine the Council's strategic oversight of the exclusion process and the Council's role in relation to identification and prevention of behavioural difficulties and the provision made for excluded pupils. The Committee sought to identify those positive aspects of service delivery to be built on and also any weaknesses in order to recommend improvements.
- 3.3 The scope for the review included examination of policies, plans and strategies being implemented at that time and achievements in relation to the corporate aim of how, where appropriate, pupils could be educated within the mainstream school environment.
- 3.4 Following completion of the review, 42 recommendations were offered for consideration by Children's Services.

4. Update on Progress

- 4.1 Set out at Appendix 1 is a progress update on all of the recommendations arising from the Policy Review.
- 4.2 Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the progress being made on the recommendations.
- 4.3 Since 2002, the policy framework has changed and within it, Children's Services in Sunderland have maintained their commitment to inclusion. The re-designation of Pupil Referral Units, the Managed Move Protocols, resource provisions in mainstream schools, the draft Behaviour and Attendance Strategy, and an inclusive 14-19 strategy, all evidence this.
- 4.4 The Every Child Matters framework has provided the context for many of these developments and on the windscreen of need those young people requiring targeted or specialist interventions are priorities in inclusive practice. The Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act and the Children, Schools and Families Bill (2009), include a focus on personalised programmes and all young people achieving their potential through personalisation and guarantees, which again support the philosophy of inclusion.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the progress which has been made in relation to the 12 recommendations contained within Appendix 1.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee are asked to note the progress being made on the recommendations from the Policy Review: Services for Children in Care.
- 5.2 Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Committee are also asked to agree to further progress updates on their policy review recommendations.

6. Background Papers

- 6.1 Children's Services Review Committee, Achieving Educational Inclusion, April 2003
- 6.2 The Children, Schools and Families Bill, 2009

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