



Report of: Chair of Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Executive	20 June 2019	All
Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt

**Subject: Permanent and Fixed-Period Exclusion from School
– Findings of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee**

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report requests that the Executive receive the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee following the completion of its review of Permanent and Fixed-Period Exclusion from School. A response to the recommendations set out in the report will be considered at a future meeting of the Executive.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee be received.
- 2.2 That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1 The review was held between July 2018 and April 2019. The overall aim of the review was to examine the use and impact of fixed period and permanent exclusion from both primary and secondary school, and make recommendations that will enable more children and young people to remain in mainstream education.

- 3.2 The objectives of the review included: to review the support available to excluded pupils and to scrutinise if this is effective; to explore the reasons for exclusions and the reasons why Islington schools have higher rates of exclusion than the Inner London average; to evaluate the impact of permanent and fixed period exclusion from school for all stakeholders; to assess the effectiveness of school based provision and work being done by schools to improve behaviour and reduce exclusion, including access to effective support services; to examine the variability in readiness to exclude across Islington schools and the perception by some parents whose children have been excluded that some schools are giving up on their children too soon and at too young an age; and to review alternative interventions and approaches to fixed period and permanent exclusion and evaluate their effectiveness, informed by national and local good practice in successfully reducing exclusion.
- 3.3 In carrying out the review the Committee met with young people, parents, head teachers, council officers and others to gain a balanced view. The Committee also considered relevant data, guidance and other documentation. The report of the review, including the Committee's recommendations, is appended.

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The proposals in the report need to be costed before a response is made by the Executive.

4.2 Legal Implications

Relevant legal implications will be considered as part of the response to the review.

4.3 Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications at this stage. Any environmental implications will be identified as part of the Executive Member response.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Committee has had regard to any equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses during the course of the review. Details of any such implications are set out in the appended report. A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed as the Executive is only asked to receive the report at this stage. The impact on residents will

need to be fully considered as part of the Executive response to the review, at which point a Resident Impact Assessment will be completed if required.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

- 5.1 The Committee's conclusions are set out in the appended report. Fourteen recommendations have been made in response to the evidence received. These are related to preventing exclusion, developing best practice in schools, supporting young people excluded from school and their parents and urging central government to act in the best interests of young people. The Executive is asked to endorse the Committee's recommendations.

Appendices:

- Permanent and Fixed-Period Exclusion from School – Report of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Background papers:

- None.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Chair of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Date

Report author: Jonathan Moore, Deputy Manager Committee Services

Tel: 020 7527 3308

E-mail: jonathan.moore@islington.gov.uk