

SCRUTINY REVIEW INITIATION DOCUMENT (SID)

Review: Equalities in Educational Outcomes

Scrutiny Review Committee: Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Director leading the Review: Mark Taylor, Director of Schools and Learning

Lead Officers: Anthony Doudle, Head of School Improvement (Primary)

Overall aims:

To assess equalities in educational outcomes for Black Caribbean and White British pupils eligible for pupil premium funding, and to make recommendations to:

- Improve pupils' engagement in school and the wider community
- Improve pupils' progress and attainment across the key stages and into the world of work
- Raise awareness and commitment to action in educational settings and across service providers in Islington

Objectives of the Review:

- To analyse and clarify underperformance intersectionally in these key groups over the past 5 years both locally and nationally. This will allow the Committee to consider performance across all variables as well as individually and over a reasonable time-period.
- To use existing national research and literature to identify the barriers to improving educational attainment for these key groups in Islington schools
- To explore the ways in which school leaders drive up the progress and attainment of identified groups informed by best practice from schools that buck the trend
- To secure agreement and commitment on the strategies that will improve outcomes for these groups at each key stage and on into further education, employment and training
- To identify the causes of underperformance including the impact of factors such as attendance and exclusion
- Engage parents, pupils, communities and stakeholders in dialogue to find productive ways forward and guide future action
- To better understand the views of children and young people, parents and community groups on how performance for key groups can be improved
- To produce workable recommendations for the Council and schools to deliver sustainable improvements in educational outcomes across schools and beyond in Islington
- To call to action all the Council's services and functions to improve outcomes for identified groups
- To evaluate the work already underway to reduce the attainment gap and to identify how this could be developed further.

How this Review will be carried out:

The Committee will receive written and oral evidence; evaluate local and national research and practice; visit providers including schools; listen to the views of school leaders and listen to the views of children, young people, parents and the wider community.

Scope of the Review:

The progress and attainment of identified groups; the interrelationship of different factors which have an impact on progress and attainment in these groups; the identification of best practice.

The Review will focus on:

- The extent to which;
 - a child's background - including ethnicity, gender, culture, and social class and;
 - negative stereotyping and/or cultural bias can have an impact on the progress and attainment of identified groups
- The positive impact that schools can have on the progress that children make
- What children, young people, parents and the wider community think needs to be done to improve progress and attainment for identified groups
- The impact of school leadership, management and governance on attainment and equality
- The impact of support, monitoring, challenge and intervention mechanisms from the Local Authority/Academy sponsors on schools' culture and attainment practices.

Type of evidence:

The Scrutiny Committee will:

- Hear the views of children and young people to see what they perceive as the factors that support their engagement, progress and attainment
- Hear what parents and the community think can be done to improve outcomes for identified groups
- Receive evidence of alternative interventions and approaches that have been effective in improving outcomes for identified groups e.g. the interventions delivered by the Upward Bound Project
- Receive evidence from local authority officers and leaders in schools
- Receive oral evidence from key witnesses and analyses of relevant local and national performance data, including links between aspiration and academic attainment
- Receive written evidence from other interested parties
- Visit schools and examine first hand interventions that are in place for identified groups
- Receive expert witness presentation from national advisers.

Witness evidence:

It is proposed that witness evidence is taken from:

- Children and young people at school and beyond e.g. Youth Council
- Parents and carers
- The community and community leaders
- Representative headteachers and other school leaders
- Practitioners and researchers expert in the field both locally and nationally
- Local authority officers

Additional information:

In carrying out the review the Committee will consider equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses. The Executive is required to have due regard to these, and any other relevant implications, when responding to the review recommendations.

Indicative Witness Evidence Plan

The below plan is indicative and is subject to change with the agreement of the Chair.

Committee Meeting – Tuesday 9 July 2019	
Who / What	Area of focus – Introductory Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny Initiation Document 	For the Committee to agree the aim, objectives and scope of the review.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anthony Doudle, Head of School Improvement (Primary) with other relevant officers 	Introductory presentation: data, context; local and national position; work undertaken to date in Islington – Equalities 'Plan on a Page' and related documentation.

August	
Who / What	Area of focus – Background Information
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Evidence 	Written evidence will be circulated to members over August. This will include background information and relevant research.

Committee Meeting – Tuesday 17 September 2019	
Who / What	Area of focus – Short update on progress and attainment; the views of headteachers and best practice
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anthony Doudle, Head of School Improvement (Primary) with other relevant officers 	Update on data on progress and attainment for these key groups with national and local comparators where available.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A panel of Headteachers from Early Years, Primary and Secondary 	Best practice in schools, successes and challenges in implementing targeted approaches.

Committee Meeting – Tuesday 29 October 2019	
Who / What	Area of focus – The National Context
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National expert 	The bigger picture – national context and research. To be related to local considerations.

Committee Meeting – Tuesday 26 November 2019	
Who / What	Area of focus – Effective interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives who can provide evidence on innovative approaches and projects being used across schools. 	Effective approaches currently in place that have a demonstrable impact on improving outcomes for these groups and lessons to be learnt. This may include the approaches of other boroughs.

Committee Meeting – Tuesday 21 January 2020	
Who / What	Area of focus – Any outstanding matters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other information as requested by the Committee 	To consider any outstanding information requested by the Committee during the course of the review.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concluding Discussion 	For the Committee to discuss their thoughts and conclusions on the evidence received, prior to developing recommendations.

Committee Meeting – Monday 10 February 2020	
Who / What	Area of focus – Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft Recommendations 	To agree a set of draft recommendations that will form the basis of the Committee's report.

Committee Meeting – Monday 30 March 2020

Who / What	Area of focus – Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Report	To agree the final report, summarising all of the evidence received, and explaining the reasons for the recommendations. The report will then be submitted to the Executive.

Proposed Scrutiny Visits and Witness Evidence Sessions

Who / What	Area of focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Primary school / early years setting – preferably one with high levels of attainment for these groups	To observe practice and talk to school leaders, pupils, parents and/or community representatives.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Upward Bound Project	To talk to pupils attending the Upward Bound project run in partnership with London Metropolitan University. Parents may also be in attendance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Islington Youth Council	To talk to members of the Youth Council about their views on equality in education.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents	To receive evidence from parents.