

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
25 November 2021

Secondary School Exclusions – discussion with Regional Schools Commissioner and local Academy Trusts

Report of the Head of Legal and Governance

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To explore what more can be done to promote inclusive practice and reduce rates of permanent exclusion from secondary schools in the City.

2 Action required

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to consider whether:
- a) it wishes to make any comment or recommendations; and/or
 - b) any further scrutiny is required and, if so, the focus and timescales.

3 Background information

- 3.1 The Committee has had concern about the rate of exclusion from schools in the City. In May 2021, the Committee looked specifically at exclusions from primary schools and the support available to families and children when a child is excluded. Evidence previously presented to the Committee has also highlighted the impact on a child or young person when they are excluded from school, for example links between permanent exclusion and risk of offending and the need for appropriately targeted youth services.
- 3.2 A key activity listed in the Strategic Council Plan 2021-23 to support Child-Friendly Nottingham is supporting and challenging schools to have inclusive practice and provide early intervention, and campaign against permanent exclusion and 'off-rolling' to make sure every Nottingham child is in school. One of the measures of improvement is school exclusion rates.
- 3.3 Therefore the Committee decided to explore why rates of permanent exclusion from secondary schools in Nottingham are higher than many other areas, especially as the City has a model of support in place; and what more can be done to enable young people to stay in school. The Committee has invited the Director of Education, Portfolio Holder with responsibility for schools and the relevant service managers to the meeting to outline the services and support in place. Representatives of local Academy Trusts have been invited to discuss their approaches to inclusive practice and what could be improved in the City. As all secondary schools in the City are academies, the Committee has also invited the Regional Schools Commissioner to attend the meeting to hear her analysis of why rates of permanent exclusion in the City are higher

than elsewhere; her expectations of academy trusts on this issue and how she assesses their inclusive practice; and thoughts on services and support for academy trusts in this area.

4 List of attached information

4.1 None

5 Background papers, other than published works or those disclosing exempt or confidential information

5.1 None

6 Published documents referred to in compiling this report

6.1 Strategic Council Plan 2021-2023

6.2 'Comments, conclusions and recommendations from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee' agreed by the Committee at its meeting on 25 March 2021

6.3 'Primary School Exclusions and family support' report to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on 27 July, and minutes of that meeting

7 Wards affected

7.1 All

8 Contact information

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