

To the Chair and Members of the Schools, Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Education of Children in Care Scrutiny Review

Relevant Cabinet Member(s)	Wards Affected	Key Decision
Councillor Eric Tatton-Kelly, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	All	None

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to present the findings and recommendations of the Panel's review into education of children in care.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. Not exempt

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. It is recommended that the Panel consider and agree the recommendations of the working group as detailed in the attached report (Appendix A).

BACKGROUND

4. Members will recall that the Panel agreed to undertake 3 or 4 reviews throughout the year. This is the final review and addressed the education of children in care.
5. It was agreed that the review be undertaken because evidence showed that children in care were underachieving in their education and generally performing less well than those who are in stable family settings. Members expressed the wish to explore this and in doing so, met with officers, social workers, school representatives and staff at children's residential units. The outcome of their discussions is attached at appendix A.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

6. There are no alternative options within this report as the intention is to provide the Panel an opportunity to consider the findings and agree it's recommendations.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION

7. Members agreed that all reviews undertaken would be presented to the Panel for approval prior to submission to the Executive.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OBJECTIVES

Priority Theme	Mayor's top 10 Priorities	Implications of this initiative
1. Creating a strong, connected and inclusive economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve Doncaster's economy • Regenerate Doncaster's Town Centres • Give people choice in transport 	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny function has the potential to impact upon all of the council's key objectives by holding decision makers to account, reviewing performance and developing policy through robust recommendations, monitoring. This review mainly has an impact on priority theme 4.</p>
2. Developing stronger communities		
3. Increasing and improving housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase affordable housing and build Council houses 	
4. Protecting and improving all our children's lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve services for children and young people • Improve education and skills across the Borough 	
5. Improving health and support for independent lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure people in need of adult social care receive a timely and appropriate service 	
6. Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce crime and end all forms of ASB 	
7. Creating a cleaner and better environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect the environment from inappropriate development, decay and architectural vandalism 	
8. Internal Transformation (Including the Council's Recovery Programme)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure local people get value for money from Council services 	

RISKS & ASSUMPTIONS

8. There are no specific risks associated with this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no specific legal implications arising directly from this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report. Should the Executive wish to consider the implementation of any of the review's recommendations, detailed costings would need to be undertaken and the any additional funding would need to be built into the budget setting process.

CONSULTATION

11. Information and evidence was heard at the review meetings which were attended by relevant external representatives and officers. Information was presented to the Panel during the meetings through a range of perspectives and opinions, research, evaluations and up-to-date information as part of a structured debate.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

12. None

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