



EDUCATION COMMISSION 29 November 2004

Report of the Director of Education

Issues affecting the Education Commission's choice of topics for review in 2004/05

RECOMMENDATION

1. To consider the issues that would potentially affect the Education Commission's proposed review of 'the range of Support and Provision for Pupils with Significant Behaviour Difficulties.'

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 2.1 In the immediate future the proposal by the Education Commission to carry out a topic review on the range of Support and Provision for Pupils with Significant Behaviour Difficulties presents some significant problems for the Education Service due to staffing shortages. There are also a number of developments that are in progress that may be duplicated by the proposed review. This would result in wasted capacity by Members and officers. The key developments are as follows.
- 2.2 The Education Service is currently undertaking a review of SEN Support Services. This review includes the behaviour support service. A number of changes are being proposed. If agreed these will come into effect in part from April 2005 and the rest from September 2005. This review is currently in negotiation with the recognised trade unions and there are sensitivities related to the staff that need to be considered.
- 2.3 The Pupil Referral Unit – PRU – is currently in special measures. A post-Ofsted action plan has been submitted to Cabinet. These actions will include development of the provision that the Education Services is proposing to make for pupils with significant behaviour difficulties.
- 2.4 A report on behaviour support to schools in Derby has already been submitted to Schools Forum. This outlined the work that has been done and was shared with City Heads and Heads Liaison Group.
- 2.5 The Education Service is in the process of developing an Exclusions Strategy which will be presented to the Children's Strategic Planning Partnership in December and then to Cabinet in the early part of 2005.

- 2.6 The review of the SEN Development Plan which was reported to Cabinet on Tuesday 9 November also included actions in relation to developing provision for excluded pupils and those at risk of exclusion.
- 2.7 As noted in the attached report, the Behaviour Support Plan – BSP – is being phased out and will be incorporated into the Children and Young People’s Plan for April 2006. There is no plan by the Education Service to review the BSP before the change in 2006 and this would mean that the Commission’s final report would not influence the BSP.
- 2.8 With regard to staffing, three senior members of staff will leave the service at, or soon after, Christmas in order to further their careers – the Assistant Director, School Improvement and Inclusion, the Head of Primary Support and a School Improvement Officer. In addition, it has not been possible to recruit to the post of Head of Secondary Support. The developing Children’s Service Agenda means that it will be necessary to make temporary arrangements to cover. All of this affects the capacity of the service in the short to medium term.
- 2.9 In conclusion, the Commission may wish to consider whether delaying the topic review would provide an opportunity to review the progress that has been made by the Education Service on developing SEN services. Alternatively the Commission may wish to select another topic for its second review of 2004/05.

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	