



Derby City Council

COUNCIL CABINET
10 October 2018

ITEM 12

Report of the Strategic Director for People
Services

Children Missing Education (CME) Policy update

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The current Children Missing Education Policy has been updated to include the specific issues of reduced timetables for children and young people and for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability.
- 1.2 The policy reflects the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities in England to identify Children Not Receiving Education (September 2016) issued under section 436A of the Education Act 1996 which requires all LAs to make arrangements to enable them to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of children residing in their area who are not receiving a 'suitable education'.
- 1.3 The Policy is attached at appendix two.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To approve and adopt the Council's Children Missing Education policy.
- 2.2 To note the Council's Children Missing Education Policy will be communicated to all schools, multi academy trusts, academies and independent providers.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure Cabinet members are provided with an opportunity to comment upon the updated policy before adopting.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 In each Local Authority there are children and young people who do not, or cannot, attend full time Education in the usual way. The 'usual way' refers to the provision attended by the vast majority of children and young people of compulsory school age in England. Typically, they attend school for between 21 and 25 hours a week, as appropriate for their age, for 38 weeks per year.
- 4.2 The main groups of children and young people who are likely to be pupils missing out on education are those who:
- have been permanently excluded
 - have particular social and behavioural difficulties and have personalised learning plans: this means that, by arrangement, they do not attend their usual school full time
 - have mental health needs and access Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) either as an in-patient or through services provided in the community
 - have medical needs other than mental health needs
 - rarely attend school and have personalised learning plans as part of attempts to reintegrate them into full time education
 - are pregnant or are young mothers of compulsory school age
 - have complex needs and no suitable school place is available
- 4.3 Ofsted's 2010 report, Children Missing Education highlighted the vulnerability of such pupils because they can be out of school unofficially and agencies may not be aware of their potentially increased exposure to drugs, alcohol misuse, crime, pregnancy or mental health problems.
- 4.4 All schools, must inform the Local Authority of any pupil who fails to attend school regularly, or has been absent without the schools permission for a continuous period of 10 school days or more, or at such intervals as are agreed between the school and the LA.
- 4.5 The Policy now specifically includes children and young people who are subject to part time timetables and who have special educational needs and disability.

4.6 The OFSTED outcome from March 2017 found that for Derby City, the following applies:

“The local authority maintains detailed records of children who go missing from school, and when a child cannot be traced by either the school or the Education Welfare Officer the case is escalated to other agencies, as appropriate. When a child’s whereabouts are unknown, there are persistent and wide-ranging efforts by agencies to locate them. Such cases are regularly reviewed by the Derby missing person’s monitoring group to ensure that all possible action is taken to locate the child. Comprehensive records are maintained on children who are electively home educated, and the local authority complies with statutory guidance by undertaking annual home visits to see these children.”

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 This is an update to the current policy, no other options considered.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Lucie Keeler, Litigation Solicitor-lucie.keeler@derby.gov.uk Tel:643582 Alison Parkin, Head of Finance – alison.parkin@derby.gov.uk Tel: 642674 Liz Moore, Head of HR- liz.moore@derby.gov.uk Tel: 643730 Hazel Lymbery Director Early Help and Safeguarding – hazel.lymbery@derby.gov.uk Tel: 642669 Gurmail Nizzer Acting Director of Commissioning- Gurmail.nizzer@derby.gov.uk Tel: 642720
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For more information contact: Background papers:	Donna Brooks, Head of Locality 3&4 – donna.brooks@derby.gov.uk Tel: 641317 None
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List of appendices:

Appendix 1 – Implications
Appendix 2 – Children Missing Education Policy

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 There are no implications from this report.

Legal

- 2.1 The policy reflects the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities in England to identify Children Not Receiving Education (September 2016) issued under section 436A of the Education Act 1996 which requires all LAs to make arrangements to enable them to establish (so far as it is possible to do so) the identities of children residing in their area who are not receiving a 'suitable education'.

Personnel

- 3.1 There are no implications from this report.

IT

- 4.1 There are no implications from this report.

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 The CME Policy is in place in order to ensure that all children and young people at risk of missing education or missing out on education are identified at the earliest opportunity and to ensure that action is taken to address issues as necessary.

Health and Safety

- 6.1 There are no implications from this report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 7.1 There are no implications from this report.

Property and Asset Management

- 8.1 There are no implications from this report.

Risk Management and Safeguarding

- 9.1 Safeguarding of potentially vulnerable children and young people will be strengthened.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 10.1 The report supports the Councils objectives and priorities of enabling individuals and communities and raising achievement and skills.