

Topic Review:

To examine if the way of managing schools is conducive to childrens' mental health and wellbeing.

Background

At the meeting on 19 June 2023 the Children, Young People & Skills Scrutiny Review Board discussed their topic review choice for the municipal year 2023/24. After discussion, the Board chose to examine if the way of managing schools is conducive to childrens' mental health and wellbeing.

The Review

Members wished to examine if the way of managing schools is conducive to childrens' mental health and wellbeing.

- There is a pressure on schools and pupils eg pressure on exams.
- How can the Council support schools.

Aims and Objectives of the Review

1. To look at the structures of Derby's school systems and educational establishments and analyse what efforts are being made to improve the existing systems with the objective of improving mental health outcomes for pupils and students. This should include an assessment of the layout of the school term.
2. To assess what is occurring in schools and educational establishments under other local authorities which are comparable to Derby City and how their best practice might be incorporated in Derby.
3. To assess what role, both proactive and reactive Derby City Council can take to assist educational establishments in improving the mental health outcomes of pupils and students.
4. To make recommendations to Cabinet, to the relevant Cabinet Member and to schools and educational establishments.

Proposed methodology.

The Board will consider written and oral information in gathering evidence for the review.

Reports and discussion with various organisations including but not exclusive to schools, CAHMs, Youth Services, local charities.

Visits to educational establishments (where appropriate and applicable).

Examination of both statistical and explanatory data.

Witnesses

It is suggested that the Board considers evidence from the following witnesses.

Headteachers, Counsellors and others in appropriate positions.

What evidence do we need to gather?

- Policies and Strategies
- Written Statements from Schools and Educational Establishments
- Other information - Any relevant legislation

Timing and Timescales for the Review

The timescales for the review below are approximate.

September 2023	To consider and agree the scoping report.
September February - 2023	To gather the evidence and write the report.
February 2024	Consider draft report.
March 2024	Agree recommendations and report to go to Council Cabinet. Agree to delegate sign off recommendations to chair/vice chair of the Board.
Date TBC	Recommendations and final report to go to Council Cabinet.