

SUBJECT: Report on Young People Excluded from Schools

MEETING: Children and Young People Select

DATE: November 12th

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: All

NON-PUBLICATION

(Insert appropriate non publication paragraph if necessary)

1. **PURPOSE:** To share information so that members are aware of the progress in reducing exclusions from schools and the current levels of exclusion in Monmouthshire Schools and enable comparison with statistical neighbours.

2. **RECOMMENDATIONS:** For members to accept the content of the report and for this agenda item to be reported annually.

3. **KEY ISSUES:**

i If children and young people are excluded from schools, research suggests that there is a higher probability of them being involved in anti-social behaviour and becoming disaffected with education.

ii If children and young people of school age are permanently excluded from schools then the Local Authority would need to ensure that educational provision is provided at the next nearest school or via the Pupil Referral Service until appropriate educational provision is secured. If pupils are permanently excluded then this could result in the Local Authority having to provide transport to enable the pupil to be able to attend educational provision. This could have a significant impact upon transport budgets.

iii Welsh Assembly Guidance – Exclusions from Schools and Pupil Referral Units (81/2012) describes informal or unofficial exclusions, as unlawful regardless of whether they are done with the agreement of parents or carers. Unlawful, unofficial or informal exclusion refers to schools:-

- sending learners home for disciplinary reasons, but not following the procedures required for formal exclusion
- learners being sent home for either short periods of time, or for longer indefinite periods which can sometimes result in the learner not returning to school at all.

Unlawful exclusions deprives parents and young people of their rights to appeal against a head teacher's decision to exclude them. If this is suspected within Monmouthshire, schools would be challenged by Local Authority Officers.

If Children and Young People are subject to unlawful exclusions then there are potential safeguarding issues as children and young people would be out of educational provision.

iv Pupils from vulnerable groups such as Black Minority Ethnic Groups (BME), Looked After Children (LAC), Gypsy Traveller Pupils can experience higher rates of exclusion than pupils not in these vulnerable groups. Exclusions amongst these cohorts are monitored rigorously.

v Levels of primary fixed term exclusion in Monmouthshire were too high and the Local Authority were allocated an additional resource July 2012 to provide intervention to reduce levels of primary fixed term exclusions

4. REASONS:

Head teachers can only consider excluding learners:-

- in response to serious breaches of the school's behaviour policy and
- if allowing the learner to remain in school would seriously harm the education or welfare of the learner or others in the school.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: None required

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

The significant equality impacts identified in the assessment (Appendix 1) are summarised below for members' consideration:

- i** Costs for transport to another school if required
- ii** Target socially excluded pupils

The actual impacts from this report's recommendations will be reviewed annually and criteria for monitoring and review will include:

- i** The number of pupils who have been permanently excluded and who have had to have transport provided to enable them to attend another maintained school
- ii** The number of pupils who have been supported by the Pupil Referral Service

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS:

As identified in 3iii if Children and Young People are subject to unlawful exclusions then there are potential safeguarding issues as children and young people would be out of educational provision.

The Local Authority monitors all exclusions and where there are corporate parenting implications, every available effort is made to avoid a permanent exclusion.

8. CONSULTEES:

Directorate Management Team for Children and Young People

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Exclusions Analysis- Progress since last Estyn Inspection 2012.

Welsh Government Guidance-Exclusions from Schools and Pupil Referral Units (081/2012)

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