

COMMITTEE: LIFELONG LEARNING AND SOCIAL INCLUSION
SCRUTINY

DATE: 26TH SEPTEMBER 2002

SUBJECT: BEST VALUE REVIEW - SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR, LIFELONG LEARNING

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IMPLICATIONS:

LEGAL		COMMUNITY SAFETY	
EQUALITIES	✓	ENVIRONMENT	
FINANCIAL		CONSULTATIONS	✓
STAFFING		OTHER	

WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. Lifelong Learning & Social Inclusion Committee is recommended to consider the draft Best Value Review (Appendix 1).

BACKGROUND

2. The Best Value of School Improvement has been led by Ann McPhee, Head of School Improvement, Unity House. The focus of the review was to examine the overall support to schools for school improvement, and to examine the most appropriate way of delivering this support.
3. The review has covered a number of areas within Lifelong Learning including:-
 - School Development Advisers
 - Curriculum Development Advisers
 - School Governance Service
 - Key Stage Strategy managers including ICT and the Ethnic Minority and Traveller Service (EMTAS)

- Education Psychology Assessment and Intervention Service
- Behaviour and Tuition Service
- Personnel functions relating to schools (both traded and non-traded)
- Finance functions relating to schools (both traded and non-traded)
- Information and Statistics

CONSULTATIONS

4. The Corporate Director for Lifelong Learning and the Head of School Improvement met with three members of the Lifelong Learning & Social Inclusion Scrutiny Committee (Councillor Dunington, Councillor Hussain and Graham Ryan) on the 13th September to discuss the draft report. The following issues were identified: -
 - Concerns over the ability of the LEA to recruit and retain high quality staff in both the School Improvement and Behaviour Support Service
 - The ability of the LEA to intervene effectively in schools in situations other than those where the school is in special measures/serious weakness (This involved discussion of the LEA approach to school categorization).
 - Concerns about Governing Bodies receiving access to appropriate information on the performance and quality of Educational provision made by the school
 - Support for pupils with EBD and the numbers of fixed term exclusions
 - Ensuring a preventative approach to identifying and meeting children's individual needs
 - Criteria for selecting schools for new EBD provision support and interactions with other initiatives such as Flying Start, On Track and Children Fund
 - Concern over securing the necessary additional funding for the School Improvement and EBD Services

PROPOSAL/OPTION

5. It is proposed that Lifelong Learning & Social Inclusion Scrutiny considers the Best Value Review (Appendix 1), and provides advice on the options presented, prior to the report being referred to Executive for final approval.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6. The aim of the School Improvement review is to ensure that services are appropriately targeted to support schools in raising standards. This review takes into account the diversity of the pupil population and the specific issues of underachievement in specific groups.

APPENDIX

7. Appendix 1 - Recommendations Best Value Review,)
School Improvement.)
Appendix 2 – Best Value review School Improvement.) To follow
Appendix 3 - Addressing the 4 C's.)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D

8. Scoping Review of School Improvement and associated papers, held by Ann McPhee, Head of School Improvement, Unity House.