

Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes, Executive Director of Children's Services	
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Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	1 March 2013
Subject:	School Admissions and Exclusions in Lincolnshire – Action Plan arising from recommendations

Summary:

This report is presenting the Action Plan for comment, in response to the recommendations arising from the School Admissions and Exclusions Scrutiny Report. This was completed by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee in January 2013.

Actions Required:

To provide comments and notes to the Action Plan in response to the recommendations in the report.

1. Background

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee agreed at its meeting on 5 January 2012 that there was a need for a scrutiny review to investigate the issues around School Admissions and Exclusions in Lincolnshire after concerns had been raised about unofficial exclusions taking place across the county from a handful of sources. The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee agreed at its meeting on 19 January 2012 to establish a Task and Finish Group to conduct this scrutiny review, and the following objectives were approved:

To examine the following issues across all types of schools in Lincolnshire:

1. What can the Local Authority do to support schools to reduce exclusions?
2. How can the Local Authority best champion the needs of vulnerable children especially those with special educational needs to ensure that they can access their preferred school?

3. How can the Local Authority ensure that the Fair Access Protocol is applied consistently and equitably across all schools and ensure that the protocol assists schools to meet the needs of this group?
4. How can the Local Authority best support parents with children with special educational needs and disability needs to attend the school which would best meet their identified special educational needs in relation to their age, ability and aptitude?

The review was completed in January 2013 and presented thirteen recommendations which have been developed into an action plan in order to address the issues raised within the review. The action plan is attached at Appendix A for consideration.

2. Conclusion

The attached Action Plan was compiled as a result of discussions within Children's Services across a number of Officers and responds to each of the recommendations indicating proposed actions, timescales and responsibilities where accepted. A comments column is included to provide elected members with a context for each of the recommendations.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Executive Response to School Admissions and Exclusions in Lincolnshire - Action Plan arising from recommendations

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Meredith Teasdale, who can be contacted on 01522 553202 or meredith.teasdale@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

