

Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 10th November 2011

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry - Attendance

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. This year the Scrutiny Board's terms of reference identify three pieces of work for the Board to undertake related to the three obsessions in the Children and Young People's Plan.
2. At the board's meeting in June, members agreed that their second major piece of work this year would be an inquiry on the second of these areas – school attendance. A copy of the agreed terms of reference is attached as Appendix 1.
3. The first formal session of the inquiry was scheduled for November. Information from Children's Services covering issues identified in the terms of reference for the inquiry is attached:
 - Update on Children's Services Obsessions – Improving School Attendance – Report to Children's Trust Board 12 September 2011
 - Attendance OBA events reoccurring outputs and suggestions
 - DfE press notice – Government changes definition of persistent absence to deal with reality of pupil absenteeism in schools
 - DfE Reducing absence – ensuring schools intervene earlier
 - Attendance Strategy persistent absence research report
 - Scrutiny statement on attendance - March 2010

4. Relevant officers from Children's Services will be at the meeting to respond to members' questions and comments.
5. The next session of the inquiry is scheduled for the Board's next meeting on 8 December 2010, as set out in the terms of reference. This session will take the form of site visits involving all Board members to the two selected clusters of Rothwell and Inner East.

Recommendation

6. The board is requested to consider the issues raised by this session of the inquiry.

Background documents

7. None.