



Report of the Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Scrutiny Board (Children's Services)

Date: 13 March 2008

Subject: Education Standards Inquiry

Electoral Wards Affected:

Specific Implications For:

Ethnic minorities

Women

Disabled people

Narrowing the Gap

1.0 Introduction

1.1 At the board's first meeting in June, members agreed to carry out an inquiry into education standards as one of their major pieces of work this year. A copy of the agreed terms of reference is attached as appendix 1.

1.2 The first formal session of the inquiry was held in January.

1.3 An important feature of most of the Board's major inquiries is a programme of visits, which enable Members to gain first hand experience of the services being scrutinised. The following visits were organised as part of the inquiry:

- Carr Manor High School
- Brigshaw High School
- Teenage Pregnancy and Parenthood Specialist Team
- Hyde Park Source
- Future Pathways
- Thomas Danby College
- National NEET Conference

1.3 The members who are taking part in these visits are producing notes. Where possible these will be circulated to Board members in advance of the meeting, although some of the visits do not take place until after the Board's meeting.

- 1.4 Sessions two and three were scheduled for this meeting. Information to support this phase of the inquiry will be circulated to Members before the meeting, including notes of visits which have taken place, as referred to above.
- 1.5 Relevant officers will be at the meeting to respond to members' questions and comments. If appropriate, a further session will be scheduled for the April Board meeting to complete the inquiry and consider any outstanding evidence, for example from the remaining visits.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The board is requested to consider the issues raised by this session and the visits undertaken as part of the inquiry.