

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE 26 JANUARY 2000

NOTE: A full copy of the report mentioned below is available from Julia Harries, Room 222, County Secretary's Department, County Hall, Hertford. (Telephone: 01992 555563)

POLICY FOR THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OTHERWISE THAN AT SCHOOL

Although the vast majority of children in Hertfordshire attend school regularly there is considerable concern about those children who, for whatever reason, are 'Out of School'.

Significant progress has been made in relation to achieving the targets for ensuring that children that do not have a school place are attending alternative provision and that the children who are identified as being 'Out of School' are returned to school.

A database was developed in May 1996 in order to record and track all children who are 'Out of School' and Multi-Agency Area Children Out of School Groups were established in 1997 in order to ensure that appropriate actions are taken to return children to suitable education. Performance measures and targets were set by the Education Committee in December 1997 and July 1998 in order to monitor the success in reducing the number of children who are 'Out of School'. A list of the performance measures and targets for reducing the numbers of children who are 'Out of School' and details relating to the progress in achieving these targets are being used to monitor and evaluate the success of the Local Education Authority's policy for the education of children otherwise than at school. These include:

- children who do not have a school place who are attending alternative provision
- children identified during each survey as being 'Out of School' who are no longer 'Out of School' by the date of the next survey
- the number of children identified as being 'Out of School' in the summer term - the reduction in the number of children identified as being 'Out of School' compared to the survey undertaken twelve months previously
- education welfare service (EWS) casework. A full list of the performance measures and targets can be supplied on request.

The rate of progress in reducing the numbers of children who are 'Out of School' will need to be increased in order to meet the Education Development Plan (EDP) target of having no more than 116 school children 'Out of School' by July 2001. £1.35m will be allocated from the Standards Fund Nineteen Grant, 'Social Inclusion : Pupil Support', to

support the Local Education Authority strategies for reducing the numbers of children who are 'Out of School'. £1.1m of this funding will be devolved to Secondary Schools in the form of Pupil Retention Grants.

Progress towards achieving the targets set out in the Education Development Plan will be supported by:

- (a) the continuing development of the youth programmes unit, which will ensure that appropriate alternative provision is arranged for those pupils in Key Stage 4 who are unable to complete their education successfully at school
- (b) the continuing development of education support centres (ESC) short term provision for permanently excluded pupils in key Stages 1 to 3 and of preventative programmes for children at risk of exclusion
- (c) the continuing development of the hospital and home education service to ensure that all children whose education is disrupted through illness receive appropriate educational support
- (d) the development of behaviour support teams which will provide schools with specialist support when children are at risk of exclusion
- (e) the appointment of a corporate parenting officer to develop and implement strategies that promote the education of looked after children.

Progress in reducing the numbers of children 'Out of School' and in achieving the targets noted in the LEA Policy for the Education of children otherwise than at school will be reported regularly to the Student Services Panel.

Keith Emsall
Chairman
County Hall
Hertford

26 January 2000