

Children and Young People Select Committee			
Title	In-depth review of exclusions from school – Evidence Session 3	Item No	
Contributors	Scrutiny Manager		
Class	Part 1	Date	13 March 2019

1. Purpose of paper

- 1.1 As part of its work programme the Committee has agreed to undertake an in-depth review of exclusions from school, the scope of which was agreed at the meeting on 5 September.
- 1.2 This paper presents evidence to the Committee in response to some of the Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE). Two previous evidence sessions were held on 17 October and 6 December. This is the last evidence session. The final report will be considered at the first meeting of the next municipal year, date to be confirmed at the Council AGM.
- 1.3 This evidence session will address the following KLOE:
- What is the practice in Lewisham schools in relation to behaviour management and early intervention? What evidence is there that these practices work?
 - What can we learn from pupil and parent experiences of exclusion in Lewisham?
 - What support is there for mental health, and what evidence is there of that this support is working?
 - What does best practice look like in engaging parents and pupils effectively in the exclusions process?
 - How are excluded pupils supported through reintegration, whether to the school they were excluded from, or a when starting a new school?
 - How are excluded pupils supported to reduce their risk of further exclusions?
 - What are Lewisham schools doing to reduce inequalities in school exclusion, in particular looking at:
 - Ethnicity
 - Gender
 - Those eligible for Free School Meals
 - Children and young people with SEND.

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Select Committee is asked to consider and comment on the evidence presented.

3. Policy context

3.1 The Council's new Corporate Strategy 2018-2022 sets out 7 corporate priorities that drive decision making in the Council. Lewisham's corporate priorities are the principal mechanism through which the Council's performance is reported.

3.2 The Council's corporate policy of "Giving children and young people the best start in life" seeks to ensure that "every child has access to an outstanding and inspiring education and is given the support they need to keep them safe, well and able to achieve their full potential."

3.3 There is particular emphasis on:

1. Securing Ofsted Good or Outstanding ratings for all of Lewisham's educational settings, and delivering a broad curriculum.
2. Making sure children are protected from abuse and neglect
3. Delivering inclusive provision, so that children and their families can access the support they need to achieve their full potential

3.4 The Children and Young People's Plan 2015 – 2018 also sets strategic vision and a key aspect is "Raising the attainment of all Lewisham children and young people" and this has a number of specific outcome areas:

- AA1: Ensuring there are sufficient good quality school places for every Lewisham child.
- AA2: Ensuring all our children are ready to participate fully in school.
- AA3: Improving and maintaining attendance and engagement in school at all key stages, including at transition points.
- AA4: Raising participation in education and training, reducing the number of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) at 16-19.
- AA5: Raising achievement and progress for all our children at Key Stages 1 – 4 and closing the gaps between underachieving groups at primary and secondary school.
- AA7: Raising achievement and attainment for our Looked After Children at all Key Stages and Post 16.

4. Disproportionality and exclusions

- 4.1 At the evidence session on 6 December, the committee considered a report by the Centre for Research in Race and Education at the University of Birmingham “Exclusion of Black Caribbean and Mixed: White/Black Caribbean students”, and committed to look further at disproportionality at this meeting.
- 4.2 The committee will hear evidence from No More Exclusions (NME) and Lewisham Education Group (LEG).
- 4.3 **No More Exclusions** is a grassroots coalition movement that seeks to see an end to race disparity in school exclusions and campaigns for quality inclusive education for all. NME will be represented by the following people:
- 4.3.1 **Cedric Whilby** - a trained Youth & Community worker with over 12 years experience as a senior manager in education. His training specialisms include Alternative Provision commissioning, contract managing, project monitoring, evaluation, offsite KS3/4 programme development and pastoral coaching. Recently appointed Executive Lead for Attendances and Wellbeing for an Alternative Provision Providers in East London, he has also as sat on a number of pan-London Local Authorities strategic panels on Alternative Provision and PRUs. Cedric has also made contributions to key policy briefing and reports on the quality of Alternative Provisions for those children who are excluded from, or who for some other reason unable to attend school. **Co-Founder of No More Exclusions.**
- 4.3.2 **Joan Hall** - Educational Advocate for Parents/Carers and CYP from Communities Empowerment Network, a grassroots charity working at the coalface on exclusions. No More Exclusions Core Strategy Member. **No More Exclusions Parental Advocacy and Partnerships Working Group Lead.**
- 4.3.3 **Alanna O’Garro** - Managing Director of Rivers Coaching. Alanna is also an educational and social activist who is extremely tired of a broken system. She runs the educational social enterprise called Rivers Coaching which coaches teachers (who work in resource-deprived areas) to embed radical processes that will counter social inequality. No More Exclusions Teacher Training and Curriculum Working Group Lead.
- 4.3.4 **Zahra Bei** - a qualified secondary school teacher with twenty years in education in both mainstream and alternative provisions. Recently completed a Master’s Degree in Social Justice and Education at UCL/loE. In January 2019 produced empirical research study focusing on ‘race’, SEND, school exclusions and the lived experience of Black excluded boys from an East London PRU. **Co- Founder of No More Exclusions.**
- 4.4 **Lewisham Education Group** is a sub-set of Ubuntu Social Living Networks, a Social Enterprise and Youth Leadership programme based in Lewisham that supports and nurtures young people in the African Caribbean diaspora. LEG will be represented by Janet G and Susan Rowe.

5. Evidence from school visits

- 5.1 Since the last evidence session, members of the committee have visited Myatt Garden Primary School and Abbey Manor College, Lewisham's Pupil Referral Unit. Notes of these visits are attached at Appendix A. Members who attended these visits are invited to share their observations and lessons learned with the committee.

6. Officer evidence

- 6.1 An officer report is attached at Appendix B. This sets out:
- supplementary information from the 2017/18 exclusions report relating to SEN support, Free School Meals (FSM), Pupil Premium, ethnic background and Elective Home Education (EHE).
 - deep dive into children referred to primary phase alternative provision during 2017/18; and
 - deep dive into Year 9, 10 and 11 permanent exclusions from Lewisham schools during 2017/18.

7. Further implications

- 7.1 At this stage there are no specific financial, legal, environmental or equalities implications to consider. However, each will be addressed as part of the review.

Appendices

Appendix A – Notes of visits to Myatt Garden Primary School and Abbey Manor College (Pupil Referral Unit)

Appendix B – Officer evidence

Background Papers

- Annual Report on Attendance and Exclusions, report to CYP Select Committee, 5 September 2018
- Exclusions from school – an in-depth review, report to CYP Select Committee, 5 September 2018
- In-depth review: Exclusions from school – first evidence session, report to CYP Select Committee 17 October 2018
- In-depth review: Exclusions from school – second evidence session, report to CYP Select Committee 6 December 2018