

**Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee
18 December 2014**

**Working Group on Children Missing Out On Education
Final Report**

Recommendation of the Working Group

That the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee consider the final report of their Working Group on Children Missing out on Education, with a view to endorsing the recommendation and agreeing its submission to the Cabinet Members for Learning and Skills and for Children and Community Safety for their endorsement and information.

Report of Scrutiny and Support Manager

Reason for recommendation

The investigation by the Working Group into the issue of children missing out on education is now complete and the Working Group has produced a final report and recommendations. The Select Committee are asked to consider the report and determine whether they endorse the recommendations. They are also asked to agree its submission to the Cabinet for information.

Report

Background

At its meeting of 19 December 2013 the Prosperous Staffordshire Select Committee received the final report of the working group on the Ofsted inspection of local authority school improvement arrangements. A recommendation of that review was for further investigation into the issue of pupils missing out on education following a recent Ofsted report.

Summary

The Working Group considered the range of factors that contributed towards children missing out on education and the size and scope of the issue within Staffordshire. They were encouraged that the infrastructure was in place to address this issue and were impressed with the work of those officers involved, particularly the Children Missing Education Officer and his team.

The review did, however, highlight concerns around information sharing with agencies that held information that would help identify children not in education and “unknown” within the

County. They also had concerns around potential safeguarding issues of there being no requirement for parents/carers to register their school aged child with the local authority in which they live. This also has the potential to create a barrier for the local authority in discharging its statutory duty to ensure that all children resident within their borders receive a satisfactory education.

Next Steps

Subject to the endorsement of the Committee, the final report, together with any accompanying submission that the Committee may wish to make, will be submitted to Cabinet for their information and endorsement.

Link to the Strategic Plan

Ensuring that Staffordshire's children and young people can get the best start in life and receive a good education so that they can make a positive contribution to their communities is a priority for the County Council.

Implications

The equalities and legal; resource and value for money; and risk implications are set out in the attached report.

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Appendices/Background papers

- Final Report of the Working Group