



**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD
17 December 2018**

ITEM 9

Report sponsor: Andy Smith, Strategic Director
of People Services
Report author: Pauline Anderson, Interim
Director of Learning and Skills

Off-rolling in Derby Schools

Purpose

- 1.1 Off-rolling is precisely what it says. It is the removal by one means or another, of students from a school's roll.
- 1.2 Ofsted chief inspector Amanda Spielman has warned that the problem of schools removing pupils from the roll in order to manipulate exam results "absolutely could get worse" if it is not tackled effectively.
- 1.3 A Times investigation found that in 2016 there were 539,844 pupils in Year 10 at state schools that submit census data, but the following year only 526,956 had their results included for league tables. This indicated a drop of 12,888 students. The number of pupils removed in the previous two years was 9,237 and 9,136 – making a total fall of 31,261 students over three years.
- 1.4 A review of in-year transition between Derby Secondary schools in 2017 revealed over 700 moves which resulted in lowered GCSE results which increase per move for each pupil.

Recommendations

- 2.1 To recommend that Council Cabinet request that officers conduct an urgent review of off-rolling in Derby schools.

Reasons

- 3.1 The council has a legal and moral responsibility to ensure that pupils attend school every day
- 3.2 Information needs to be gathered about the practice of off-rolling so that appropriate challenge, support and intervention can be put in place where required.

Supporting Information

- 4.1 The Times' findings follow a Ofsted blog from June on off-rolling by Jason Bradbury, deputy director for data and insight and chief statistician, who found that between 2016 and 2017 more than 19,000 pupils did not progress from year 10 to year 11 in the same state-funded secondary school.
- 4.2 Anecdotal evidence points to the practice of off rolling in some Derby schools but a formal investigation is required to confirm this. Both maintained schools and academy schools are in scope and both the Regional Schools Commissioner, John Edwards and Emma Ing, (Ofsted) will be fully informed of the process and outcomes.
- 4.3 There is a correlation between high incidences of off-rolling and the rise in Elective Home Education which needs to be in the scope of the review. The review needs to feed into an overarching review of inclusion in the Derby education system.
- 4.4 It is proposed that we use the work of Ofsted researchers who have developed a statistical model to estimate what proportion of pupils might be expected to leave each school. Out of 2,900 schools that lost pupils between years 10 and 11, its model shows 810 schools that lost five or more pupils and 300 whose pupil losses exceeded expectation for two years running.
- 4.5 The outcome of the review will be reported in July 2019.

Public/Stakeholder Engagement

- 5.1 None

Other Options

- 6.1 None

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None

Legal implications

- 8.1 None

Other significant implications

- 9.1 Council Plan – Ambitious – a place where we support our children and young people to achieve their full potential, skills are valued, jobs and businesses are growing and we have the infrastructure to create a city for the future.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s)	Pauline Anderson, Acting Director of Learning and Skills	3/12/2018
Report sponsor Other(s)		