
To: Cabinet

From: Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2)

Date: 13th March 2025

Subject: Supporting Children Who are Unable to Attend their Education Setting under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996

1 Purpose of the Note

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet of the recommendations from the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) following consideration of an item on Supporting Children Who are Unable to Attend their Education Setting under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996 at their meeting on 13th March 2025

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) recommend that Cabinet:
- 1) Approve the policy and approach for supporting children who are unable to attend their education setting under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996
 - 2) Delegate authority to the Director of Children and Education Services and the Director of Finance and Resources to oversee, monitor and implement the Policy
 - 3) Request a glossary of terms be appended to the Policy
 - 4) Request the flow chart at Appendix 1 be made more user friendly.

3 Information and Background

- 3.1 At their meeting on 13th March, the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Board (2) considered a Cabinet Report on Supporting Children Who are Unable to Attend their Education Setting under Section 19 of the Education Act 1996.
- 3.2 The Board asked questions of the Cabinet Member and officers and received responses on the following areas:
- Affordability of implementing the policy for schools and that the impact would be monitored and managed on an ongoing basis.

- The disproportionate representation of White British children within the cohort of permanent exclusions and steps taken to reduce exclusions. This matter will be the subject of a specific item next municipal year
- If a child is ill and unable to work at home, the policy would only be used if the school wasn't able to provide access to education
- The overlap with Education Health and Care Plans and exclusions and steps being taken to reduce permanent exclusions
- How families are still able to access free school meals if a child is absent from school for a period of time
- The multi-agency approach to reducing exclusions and whether there are any characteristics that make children at higher risk of exclusion and how those children can be safeguarded if they are not in school.

4 Health Inequalities Impact

- 4.1 A full EIA, including health inequalities, has been completed as part of the Cabinet Report process.

Gennie Holmes
Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Law and Governance
gennie.holmes@coventry.gov.uk