

Somerset County Council  
Scrutiny for Policies, Children and Families Committee –  
19 November 2019

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## **Task and Finish Group proposal - School Exclusions**

Lead Officer: Annette Perrington

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Cabinet Member: Cllr Nicholson and Cllr Purbrick

Division and Local Member: All

### **1. Summary**

- 1.1.** This report sets out a proposal for the Committee to form a Task and Finish Group to review School Exclusions. The review would be tightly defined and involve working with a variety of partner agencies and include visits and obtaining input from excluded pupils, their families and Schools.
- 1.2.** The proposal outlines activity of the Task and Finish Group to be held next January and February with a final report to be presented to the Committee's 4 March 2020 meeting.

### **2. Issues for consideration / Recommendations**

- 2.1.** The Committee is asked to consider, comment and endorse the proposal for a Task and Finish Group to review School Exclusions.
- 2.2.** The proposal outlines activity of the Task and Finish Group being next January and February with the Group's final report to be presented to the Committee's 4 March 2020 meeting.
- 2.3.** The Task and Finish Group would be comprised of:  
Leigh Redman (Chair, Children & Families Committee), Rod Williams (Vice Chair, Children & Families Committee), Ruth Hobbs (Chair Somerset Parent Carer Forum), Expert on Exclusions (TBC), SENDIAS service (TBC), young people (if possible).

### **3. The Proposal**

- 3.1.** There would be an 'enquiry fortnight' to examine the reasons, drivers and impact of school exclusions on children, young people and their families including those who may have special educational needs and disabilities in Somerset. This will also provide the Task and Finish Group with an overview of National research and best practice across fixed term and permanent exclusions.
- 3.2.** The Task and Finish Group will be able to offer support and challenge to the current system and to identify co-produced recommendations for consideration across Somerset schools and partners. The final report will contribute to improved outcomes for children and young people at risk of exclusions and those who have been excluded and to enable the prevention of exclusions and seek alternatives to exclusion.
- 3.3. The Task and Finish Group will:**
  - Examine local data of both fixed term and permanent exclusions of those Children who are resident in Somerset;

- Analyse data to show comparison with statistical neighbours and provide estimates of the current 'cost' of exclusion, including all post exclusion costs;
- Identify children who need Early help and/ or SEND support;
- Consider National regulations and current Local models;
- Hear lived experience of children, and young people who have been excluded and their families (supported by Somerset parent/ carer forum);
- Hear the experiences from a range of local practitioners.

**3.4. The Task and Finish Group will speak with:**

- Headteacher Associations;
- Somerset Secondary Heads Association;
- Somerset Primary Heads Association;
- Somerset Governor Network;
- Schools forum representative;
- Sen. SE (Special schools and PRU's);
- NEU representative;
- Parents (Supported by Somerset Parent Carer forum);
- Young people groups (Supported by relevant forums).

**3.5. The Task and Finish Group will visit:**

- PRU's;
- Secondary schools with outstanding Inclusive Practice;
- Primary schools with outstanding inclusive practice;
- Alternative providers (TBC).

**3.6. The Task and Finish Group Proposal timeline:**

Week commencing 13 January – Analysis/Data to T&F Group members;  
Week commencing 20 January – Planned visits;  
Week commencing 27 January – Enquiry week;  
Week commencing 3 February – Initial report drafted  
Final report to 4 March Committee meeting.

**3.7. The Task and Finish Group will be supported by:**

Children's Services: Annette Perrington (Assistant Director, Education); Phil Curd Strategic (Manager Access and ALN); Jane Seaman (Admissions Manager).  
Public Health (TBC).

Clinical Commissioning Group: Lydia Woodward, (Acting Associate Director of Women and Children's Health Commissioning) TBC; John Dunning (Lead commissioner for Mental health and well-being) TBC; Designated medical Officer (TBC).

Democratic Services.