

Scrutiny review – Attainment Gap

- 1 What is the review?

Attainment Gap

- 2 What outcomes could realistically be achieved? Which agency does the review seek to influence?

Southwark council and its partners in education are concerned with raising educational attainment and positive outcomes for all children in the borough, including those from the most disadvantaged backgrounds.

This review seeks to:

Positively impact on delivering the manifesto commitments to

- ensure that 70% of students at every secondary school get at least 5 good GCSEs.
- guarantee education, employment or training for every school leaver in Southwark.

With a focus on what works in schools to narrow attainment gap between the most disadvantaged pupils and their counterparts.

Positively impact on the education of children in care/care leavers and the support and options they receive on leaving school.

Agencies the committee could directly affect are:

Council departments – particularly Education, Social Services and Economic Development

Agencies the committee could influence are;

Schools – particularly via education representatives (head-teacher executive, parent governors & diocese reps.) and via Southwark Education Department disseminate the recommendations.

3 When should the review be carried out/completed? I.e. does the review need to take place before/after a certain time?

Completed by the end of the administrative year 2014/15

4 What format would suit this review? (e.g. full investigation, q&a with executive member/partners, public meeting, one-off session)

Full investigation

5 What are some of the key issues that you would like the review to look at?

Performance of the most disadvantaged children in the education system and who they are, alongside identification of specialised support given: by schools, the Education Department and the Voluntary & Community Sector.

The performance of children in care and the current education, training and employment support given.

Changes to the curriculum and the exam and testing regime – with specific reference to its impact on disadvantaged & less academically inclined young people.

The recruitment of teachers and how this could be better support.

The council's delivery of the manifesto to 'guarantee education, employment or training for every school leaver in Southwark' with particularly focus on the most disadvantaged 30%, and support provided for girls.

6 Who would you like to receive evidence and advice from during the review?

Southwark Council's Education, Social Care and Economic Development departments.

Schools – particularly school parent governors & head teachers.
Further Education Colleges

Local business networks

Community & Voluntary Sector (VCS) working to informally or formally support young people in education, training & access to work.

Children in care & care leavers

Young People, particularly disadvantaged young people

Families

- 7 Any suggestions for background information? Are you aware of any best practice on this topic?

A national initiative on narrowing the gap in outcomes for pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds

- 8 What approaches could be useful for gathering evidence? What can be done outside committee meetings?

e.g. verbal or written submissions, site visits, mystery-shopping, service observation, meeting with stakeholders, survey, consultation event

A simple proforma (see attached) will be circulated to every head teacher in the borough, asking for evidence of what methods are successfully being employed to narrow the attainment gap for the most disadvantaged pupils in their school.

Invite the Youth Council to give evidence

Invite Speaker-box to give evidence (children in care/ care leavers)

Invite young women's groups to give evidence

Request the assistance of the Children's rights officer

Survey of young people & social media campaign to encourage young people to give their views

Officer evidence

Outreach to VCS sector and invitations to give evidence

Invitation to schools and colleges to give evidence

Outreach to Parent Governors & Head-teachers Executive and other relevant fora.

Academic reports from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation

- 9 Outcome
An up to the minute report on how local schools and agencies are raising attainment of children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds

A resource pack documenting best practice