

REPORT TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 10 DECEMBER 2007

REPORT ON: RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS FOLLOWING THE INQUIRY INTO SIDLAW VIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 652-2007

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report details the findings of the Independent Inquiry into allegations about Sidlaw View Primary School. It also describes the actions already taken by the Education Department and those yet to be taken.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- i) note the content of this report; and
- ii) instruct the Director of Education to implement the recommendations as described in the findings.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The costs attached to the implementation of the recommendation to improve security will be met from within the Education Department's revenue and capital budget provision.

4.0 MAIN TEXT

BACKGROUND

4.1 An Independent Inquiry was established by Dundee City Council in September 2007. The full text of the report is included as item 1A on the Education Committee Agenda.

4.2 There are three recommendations contained in the report.

Recommendation 1

That security in the school be reviewed including:

- i) replacement of the existing entrance control equipment which is now ten years old; and
- ii) relocation of the school administration office

The security at Sidlaw View Primary School has been reviewed and a new entrance system has been ordered and is being installed.

The new system will comply with the DDA and can easily be relocated to a new office location at a future date.

The relocation of the school administration office will be funded from the Education Department's Capital Budget or session 08/09.

The new entrance control system will operate as a pilot and following evaluation will be considered as replacement for other systems in schools across the city.

Recommendation 2

That the Education Best Value Review Group should monitor the implementation of the Managing Disruptive Behaviour Guidelines.

The Education Best Value Review Group will carry out the above recommendation.

It was recognised in the report that the department has an agreed process in place with regard to violent incidents. A small number of staff feel that the support offered by the department was not as effective as it might have been but this perception was not shared by the majority. The Panel acknowledged the evidence produced that support has been provided from within the education department managed by the Director and Heads of Service.

In addition, the Director of Education will instruct that a leaflet, describing for all staff the violent incident procedures, be produced and distributed as soon as possible.

Recommendation 3

This relates to the management style of the school.

Whilst there are no specific recommendations made here, the Director of Education will meet with the Head Teacher to discuss Continuing Professional Development and how the education department may best offer support in this area.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. There are no major issues.

5.2 There are no major issues.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

Alex Stephen
Chief Executive

3 December 2007