



**Bereavement Support in Schools
Cabinet Response to Scrutiny Report**

Scrutiny Committee: Children & Young People		Cabinet Member: Cllrs. Stephen Burrell and Jayne Greenaway	
Report: Bereavement Support in Schools		Response prepared by: Richard Partington, Assistant Chief Executive; Teresa Regan, Principle Educational Psychologist	
Lead Scrutiny Member: Cllr. Adam Stanton Lead Scrutiny Officer: Stephanie Jones		Date of Cabinet meeting: 22nd March 2011	
Scrutiny Recommendation	Response and summary of action being taken to implement, or reason for rejection	Date by which action will be taken	Person responsible for action (name and title)
2.1 The Council develops a specimen bereavement policy for schools. The policy should take a broad definition of bereavement to include other traumatic events such as family break-ups, disability or serious illness. It should also include support for friends of the bereaved child.	Agreed In response to the scrutiny group's questionnaire, a number of schools have shared their current policies. These 'best practice' examples will be used as the basis for a template for the Council's specimen policy. Work on the specimen policy has been discussed with the Bereavement and Critical Incident Team within the Educational Psychology Service. This will be led by a senior psychologist who will work with members of the scrutiny group and with schools to	To begin by end of March 2011. Expected completion July 2011	Clive Jones, HOS, Family and Community Services/ Teresa Regan Principal Educational Psychologist/ Sheri Wright, Specialist Senior



		agree the specimen policy		Educational Psychologist
2.2	The Council develops a set of procedures to accompany the specimen policy. This would include procedures for having a nominated member of staff in each school and training options for the nominated member.	Agreed. Procedures and training options are already available and in place in a number of schools, developed through Healthy Schools, Learning Mentor training and other initiatives. The proposed specimen policy will draw together information about best practice and will signpost training options	To begin by end of March 2011. Expected completion July 2011.	Clive Jones, HOS, Family and Community Services/ Teresa Regan Principal Educational Psychologist/ Sheri Wright, Specialist Senior Educational Psychologist
2.3	The Council develops and maintains a list of all relevant contacts and resources to accompany the specimen policy and procedures.	Agreed. This information is already available and kept up to date. It is accessible from the Educational Psychology Service and on the EPS virtual learning environment. However, schools often only access this information when they experience a critical incident or bereavement and approach the Service for advice. The specimen policy will serve to help schools prepare in advance of an incident, using the principle of being 'wise	To begin by end of March 2011. Expected completion July 2011	Clive Jones, HOS, Family and Community Services/ Teresa Regan Principal Educational Psychologist/ Sheri Wright, Specialist



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		before the event'. Collating all relevant contacts and resources into the policy will ensure the information is easily accessible.		Senior Educational Psychologist
2.4	The specimen policy, procedures and contact/resource list should be disseminated to schools including in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In induction packs for new head teachers• As agenda items for discussion at school governors' meetings• Posted on the Council/schools' website.• A printed copy should be provided to schools in a format that is durable, recognizable and easy to update e.g. a folder with removable sections that can be individually updated.	Agreed A printed copy is considered to be the most effective means of ensuring easy access to the information. The potential cost of printed copies is still to be determined	To begin by end of September 2011. Expected completion by March 2012	Clive Jones, Head of Family and Community Services
2.5	To note that the CYP Scrutiny Committee will contact the schools to review the effectiveness of the policy after 12 months.	Agreed	September 2012	Scrutiny Chairman