

## Children and Young People Scrutiny Commission

9<sup>th</sup> September 2019

### Item 5 – Off-rolling in schools

Item No

5

#### **Outline**

Off-rolling is the practice of removing a pupil from school roll (without using a permanent exclusion) when the removal is in the best interests of the school and not the child. This includes pressuring a parent to remove their child from school.

In February 2019, the Children's Commissioner published research into off-rolling in schools; *Skipping School: missing children*. This report highlighted a number of ways in which children can 'go missing' from the school roll each year, including off-rolling. Reports suggest that off-rolling can have a detrimental impact on children and their families and disproportionately affects disadvantaged pupils, those with special educational needs, and pupils with low prior attainment.

Off-rolling is a complex issue however, which is by its nature difficult to identify particularly as this practice is unlawful if it is for a non-disciplinary reason. This item aims to explore the nature and extent of off-rolling locally, and identify what actions the Council and its partners can take to prevent this from occurring.

#### Objectives

- To define off-rolling, how this relates to home schooling but differs from exclusion;
- To assess the nature and scale of off-rolling (both nationally and locally);
- To determine how off-rolling is identified, and how best to work with schools to prevent this from occurring;
- To assess what support children and parents may need to prevent off-rolling;
- To identify the role of the local authority in preventing off-rolling, and how best it can work with schools and other partners in this process.

#### Contributing Panel

- Simone Vibert, Senior Public Affairs & Policy Analyst, Office of the Children Commissioner
- Annie Gammon, Director of Education and Head of Hackney Learning Trust
- Mike Sheridan HMI, London Regional Director, Ofsted
- Kiran Gill, Chief Executive, The Difference

Format of session (1hr 30 mins)

- Contributor presentations and short Q & A (10min each)
- Open panel discussion (30 mins)
- Summing up and conclusions Commission and Chair (10 mins)

Background documents previously circulated:

1. [Skipping school: invisible children](#) - Office of the Children's Commissioner
2. [Off-rolling in English schools](#) - House of Commons Briefing
3. [Off-rolling in Schools](#) - LGiU Briefing
4. [Exploring the issue of off-rolling](#) – Ofsted/YouGov
5. [Unexplained pupil exits from schools: a growing problem?](#) – Education Policy Institute