

**Select Committee on Children's Services - 23 January 2008**

**Report of the Director of Children's Services**

**Ofsted - TellUs 2 survey results 2007**

**Purpose of the report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the results from the 2007 Ofsted TellUs 2 online survey published on 14 November 2007.

**Background**

2. TellUs2 is the first national survey of its kind and reflects the importance that Ofsted and the Government attaches to hearing the voice of children and young people, and responding to what they say. The TellUs2 online survey asked children aged between 10-15 in England how they view their lives and how good local authorities are at providing children's services. More than 111,000 children took part in the survey which ran from 24 April to 14 June across 141 local authorities.
3. The questions in the survey were designed to reflect the priorities set out in the Government's Every Child Matters initiative, aimed at improving the education, health and well-being of children. The children taking part were asked if they consider themselves healthy, whether they feel safe in their local area, how well they feel they are helped to enjoy life and achieve success, and whether they have good opportunities to make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well-being.
4. The information gathered as part of TellUs2 has been given to local authorities who provide Children's Services so that they can compare their results with the national picture. Schools can use the information to compare what they know about themselves with others in their area. Ofsted have also used the survey results to measure and monitor the effectiveness of local services.

**National findings**

5. Christine Gilbert, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills found that, 'Young people are overwhelmingly healthy, sporting, community-minded and conscientious about school.' However, Ofsted also found

that, 'The survey also reveals concerns about bullying, a desire for better advice on careers, sex and relationships - and claims of cigarette, alcohol and drugs use among a minority. It is also clear that more needs to be done to address children and young people's worries and concerns about how safe they feel; about exams and tests; and about what would help them learn better and where they need to go for help when they have a problem.'

### **Dudley results**

6. Overall, the results are typical of the national position with Dudley children and young people being at or within one to five percentage points of the national average. Out of the 199 questions reported there are no negative outcomes highlighted by Ofsted in Dudley and eight 'significantly different' positive outcomes.
7. The Dudley TellUs2 survey was completed by 1,063 children and young people in 25 Dudley schools during April, May and June 2007. This was a good school response rate, 10% above the national average and 6% above the national pupil response rate average.
8. The positive outcomes that Ofsted have highlighted as being significantly different to the national average with a 95% confidence level are:
  - The information and advice Dudley children and young people receive on alcohol, smoking and drug misuse which was significantly better than the national average being 9%, 10% and 11% higher respectively.
  - Dudley's strong policy on anti-bullying was also highlighted with 66% of pupils saying that they hadn't been bullied in school over the previous four weeks. This is 4% points lower than the national average. Although 19% of pupils said they had been bullied at school during the previous four weeks 66% of all respondents said that their school deals well with incidents of bullying. This is 9% above the national average and highlighted by Ofsted as a significant positive outcome.
  - 60% of pupils feel that their views are listened to in the running of their school which is 8% above the national average.
9. Other features of the survey are:-

- Dudley children are less worried about school and their future than children nationally and are confident to speak with their teachers and other adults about their problems.
- 54% of children want to go to University which is 4% above the national average.
- 18% of pupils report they had been drunk during the survey period which is 3% higher than the national average. However, the quality of information and advice they receive on alcohol misuse is judged to be 9% better than the national average.
- 33% of children say they don't feel safe on public transport which is 6% above the national average.
- 97% of children undertake at least 30 minutes of sport or physical activity a week with more than 37% doing 30 minutes at least 6 or more times a week.

## **Conclusions**

10. Overall, the findings of the survey reveal a positive position for children and young people in Dudley. Children and young people are confident to speak with their teachers and other adults about their problems and feel the advice they receive on alcohol, smoking and drug misuse is significantly better than the national average. In addition, a high level of statutory school aged children are participating in high quality PE and school sport.
11. The Annual Performance Assessment of Services for Children and Young People in Dudley MBC (APA) published on 26 November 2007 noted that the authority has 'effective strategies to combat bullying' with the results of the Tellus2 survey showing that 'when incidents of bullying occur they are dealt with in a timely and effective manner.'
12. However, the APA also highlighted the need to 'reduce young people's fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, especially on public transport.' The Committee may wish to consider these findings further.

## **Finance**

13. Any costs associated with the implementation of the TellUs 2 survey have been

met within existing budgets.

### **Law**

14. The principal legislation is the Children Act 2004 and associated Regulations and statutory guidance.

### **Equality Impact**

15. An analysis of the 1,063 children taking part in the Dudley survey revealed that the percentage of respondents, including ethnicity and disability, matched closely the national average and the school population profile across the borough. Overall, more boys (57%) completed the survey than girls (43%) and more Key Stage 2 pupils (60%) than Key Stage 3 and 4 (40%).

### **Recommendations**

16. It is recommended that the Committee:
  - note the contents of this report
  - identify any priorities for further scrutiny.



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