

Response to Robin Stuchbury

Question

Will the education authority be in a position to publish any advice from the government regarding sending children back to school on the 1st June? This is a difficult enough question for yourself, let alone the parents who will be making that decision within their own family who will look to the council for guidance when making their decision.

Further to this, what work is being undertaken with trade unions, school head teachers and officers to be in a position to give advice to schools supported with scientific advice to support decisions and recommendations around children from certain age groups returning to schools and ensuring a safe environment for pupils and teachers?

Response

Following the release of the recent government guidance in relation to schools re-opening senior officers have been working with our Headteacher representatives, Public Health advisor and trade union reps to discuss the requirements in relation to a safe return to school for the priority groups identified. We are aware that there are concerns amongst parents in relation to this and are encouraging parents to speak directly to their headteacher, as it is ultimately for headteachers to make their own decision based on the information available according to their individual context, prioritising the wellbeing and safety of their staff, pupils and families.