

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

CABINET

DATE: 5 FEBRUARY 2013

REPORT OF: MRS LINDA KEMENY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND LEARNING

LEAD OFFICER: PETER-JOHN WILKINSON, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, SCHOOLS AND LEARNING

SUBJECT: EDUCATION ACHIEVEMENT PLAN 2013-17



SUMMARY OF ISSUES:

The Education Achievement Plan sets out the County Council's approach to working with education partners to shape education provision and raise achievement for children and young people over the next five years (2013-2017). The plan responds to changing needs and policy and is a key delivery mechanism for the Children and Young People's Strategy 2012-17.

The plan aims, inter alia, to secure a successful locally agreed model for school improvement that allows existing partnership arrangements to be developed, including those with both academy and non-academy schools

The development of the draft plan has been part of a wider engagement with headteachers to agree a primary and secondary vision for the education of children and young people to ensure all schools in Surrey are judged by Ofsted to be at least good schools by 2017.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that:

1. The approach to raising education and achievement detailed in the plan is agreed.
2. The publication of the Education Achievement Plan is agreed and that the Strategic Director for Children, Schools and Families in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Learning is authorised to sign off any subsequent amendments to the plan before publication, provided there are no substantive changes.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:

To note the plan for promoting the education and achievement of children and young people and to agree to its delivery.

DETAILS:

Strategic Approach

1. The Education Achievement Plan sets out the activity that will be undertaken across Surrey County Council to deliver the identified education and achievement priorities between 2013 and 2017. As with all other plans that sit under the Children and Young People's Strategy, this plan will:
 - Address the needs of local children, young people and families
 - Work towards the positive outcomes at all stages of childhood and adolescence that are outlined in the lifecourse outcomes
 - Provide value for money
 - Address the priorities of the Children and Young People's Strategy, in particular: prevention, participation and potential
 - Build and maintain a good foundation of partnership working
 - Facilitate the co-design of services with children, young people and their parents
 - Assess the impact of changes on protected equalities groups
 - Address the changing policy landscape

Education and Achievement Priorities

2. The prosperity of Surrey depends, in the long term, on the quality of education provided within it. In order to provide children, young people, families and their communities with the best chance in life, the County Council seeks to maintain a significant leadership role in the local education system.
3. Most of Surrey's children perform well compared with their peers nationally. Our current improvement strategy has secured nearly three quarters of our 392 schools as good or outstanding. Where we have targeted our resources intensively on less successful schools the majority have improved. However, there are a number of specific challenges from a rapidly changing education landscape which have increased the risks to schools and the urgency to agree a new plan to achieve our objective that every child and young person in Surrey has access to a good school and a good education by 2017.
4. Although overall Surrey continues to perform better than the national and South East region in most key measures at all Key Stages analysis of 2012 performance data shows that there remains some key priorities particularly with progress in mathematics and English and the progress and attainment of disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils
5. A new Ofsted measure of Local Authority success for schools published in November 2012 identifies that our primary schools were ranked 87th (primary) and 82nd (secondary) nationally for the percentage of children attending schools that were judged by Ofsted to be least 'good'. There are 152 local authorities responsible for education. By the end of December 75.4% of all schools in Surrey compared to 69.5% nationally were judged to be good or better by Ofsted. However, there remains room for improvement as 25% (95) of our schools are still not yet judged to be good.
6. The Education Achievement Plan is critical in order to ensure that the County Council can deliver its statutory role to:

- ensure sufficient places at good schools and fair access to education
 - support and promote the interests of vulnerable children and young people
 - promote the interests of parents
 - champion educational excellence and raise standards
7. Surrey is committed to continuing to develop its own local model for working in partnership to raise standards. This unique approach brings together a long history of community partnership, collaborative working and an excellent track record in school to school support. It is our intention to continue to work with our partners to build on the success of Surrey early years settings, schools, academies and colleges to provide high quality education for all the county's children based on the needs of every child.
8. The Education Achievement Plan sets out four priority areas where we believe we can make the most difference in 2013-17 to achieve our vision, that *'every child and young person contributes and achieves more than they thought possible'*. The plan's priorities are to:
- Increase participation and engagement
 - Support collaboration and partnership
 - Raise achievement and excellence and realise potential
 - Prevent exclusion
9. Our priorities are informed by our understanding analysis of performance, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and consultation with all our strategic partners and stakeholders. This has included headteachers, governors from maintained schools and academies, college principals, the diocesan boards, phase councils, officers and Members.
10. It is important that we can measure the changes to services we intend to make and the improvements in educational outcomes we hope to achieve. Outcome measures will therefore be developed for the plan, aligned to existing frameworks and identifying key success criteria to be met by 2017.

<u>CONSULTATION:</u>

11. The plan is one of three plans (the two others being the Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding Plan and Young People's Employability Plan), which form part of the Children and Young People's Strategy. Formal consultation undertaken on the Children and Young People's Strategy ran from 1 to 25 May 2012 and comprised three parts:
- Three practitioners' workshops for Surrey County Council staff and partner organisations. Practitioners included social care, health, the voluntary and community sector, services for young people, education, early years and the police. There were five groups at each event, each covering a different stage of the lifecourse outcomes. In total, 96 practitioners attended the workshops.
 - Various meetings and workshops with elected Members, management groups and relevant partnership groups.
 - An online consultation invited respondents to comment on our four priorities and what we need to do to ensure effective partnership working. The online consultation also invited comment on the

lifecourse outcomes. Of the 91 respondents to the online consultation, 60% (54) were professionals; 27% (35) were parents, and 3% (2) were children and young people.

12. Specific comments made about education and achievement outcomes and what should be included in the Education Achievement Plan were incorporated into the early scoping and drafting of the plan.
13. As part of the engagement process the plan has also been commented on by the Children and Young People's Partnership Board, Learning Strategy Board, Education Select Committee, schools and phase councils, colleges, diocesan boards and governors.

RISK MANAGEMENT AND IMPLICATIONS:

14. None as a direct result of this plan. However, there are several external factors, such as health, education and welfare reforms which could impact on the achievement of the plan's priorities.

Financial and Value for Money Implications

15. There is an increasing demand for services and less money available to support services in their current form. The County Council has already made significant savings of £67 million in 2010/11, £59million in 2011/12 and a further £71 million in 2012/13. Over the business planning period of 2012/17 the total savings required across the County Council is £206 million, and Children, Schools and Families are expected to save £41 million within that total. Most money for running schools comes from central Government. The financial situation is expected to worsen across the public sector, given the state of the global and national economies. Delivery of the priorities may also be impacted during the lifetime of the strategy by external factors such as national funding arrangements for schools and other education providers.
16. Within this context, the plan aims to achieve the best possible educational outcomes for Surrey's children and young people, within the allocated budget. The plan includes actions that the local authority will take to deliver each of the four strategic priorities. Final proposals will be fully costed and prioritised within the Directorate business planning process and within the Directorate budget.

Section 151 Officer Commentary

17. The Section 151 Officer confirms that the plan must be delivered within the budget allocated.

Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer

18. The approach set out in the plan will inform the way in which Surrey County Council meets its statutory duties towards children and young people in relation to education from 2013 to 2017. As individual work streams are implemented, there may be further legal implications, for example in procurement and commissioning or partnership arrangements, which will need to be addressed in more detail at the time.

Equalities and Diversity

19. The equalities impact assessment on the Education Achievement Plan indicates that the plan will generally have a positive impact on the educational outcomes of children, young people and their families in Surrey.
20. We will prioritise inclusion and raising the attainment of our most disadvantaged children and we recognise the need to work with a wide range of partners to deliver this.

Corporate Parenting/Looked After Children Implications

21. The plan aims to ensure that looked after children (LAC) achieve at least the national average at the end of each key stage of education by 2017. This will be achieved through:
 - Ensuring that our services from different areas (education, health and social care) work strategically together to ensure best practice to achieve and maintain a good or outstanding inspection standard
 - Championing and providing targeted support, advice and guidance to schools for children from vulnerable groups including looked after children
 - Maintaining a virtual school to champion high achievement and aspirations at all stages of their education
 - Ensuring all 2 year-old looked after children will be able to access a free early education place
22. The plan will therefore have a positive impact on Looked After Children.

Safeguarding Responsibilities for Vulnerable Children and Adults Implications

23. The important role of educational settings in safeguarding will be taken forward as part of the work to develop a Compact. It is also addressed in more detail through the Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding Plan. This includes:
 - Developing shared multi-agency safeguarding responsibilities and child protection practice with key partners including health
 - Developing a comprehensive multi-agency quality assurance framework
 - Developing the capacity and capability of the children's workforce around the understanding of domestic abuse.

Public Health Implications

24. The important role of schools in health and wellbeing of children and young people in Surrey will be taken forward as part of the work to develop a Compact. It is addressed separately through the Health, Wellbeing and Safeguarding Plan.

Climate Change/Carbon Emissions Implications

25. The Council attaches great importance to being environmentally aware and wishes to show leadership in cutting carbon emissions and tackling climate

change. The Children's Education Achievement Plan is expected to have a neutral impact on climate change and carbon emissions.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:

26. Subject to Cabinet approval it is proposed to:

- Publish the plan and share it with stakeholders
- Develop an annual detailed implementation plan starting in March 2013 for 2013-14
- Review the plan in 2016

Contact Officer:

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Consulted:

Children, Schools and Families Directorate Leadership team, Children and Young People's Partnership Board, Learning Strategy Board, Education Select Committee, schools and phase councils, colleges, diocesan boards and governors.

Annexes:

Annex 1 Draft Education Achievement Plan 2013-17
Annex 2 Measures of Success baseline and target data

Background papers:

None
