
Meeting: Children Families and Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date: 2 February 2010
Subject: Education Vision
Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Children, Families and Learning
Summary: The Committee asked to receive a report for comment regarding the vision for transforming learning in Central Bedfordshire at their meeting in February.

Contact Officer: Patrick Shevlin, Assistant Director Learning and School Support
Public/Exempt: Public
Wards Affected: ALL
Function of: Executive

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Council Priorities:

Developing the right educational vision is of key importance in Central Bedfordshire's Strategic Plan (2009-11), particularly in educating, protecting and providing opportunities for children and young people.

Financial:

This report and appendix sets out the educational vision for Central Bedfordshire but the next stages of this work will need to develop a capital programme for schools and a plan for removing surplus places from the school system. There will need to be a review of school provision within each area and future development plans will need to be part of plans for community regeneration.

Legal:

The Council has a duty under section 13A of the Education Act 1996 to promote high standards, ensure fair access to educational opportunity and promote the fulfilment by every child of his/her educational potential.

Risk Management:

Schools will need support to adapt to a new way of working where they both challenge and support each other. The Council role will be to co-ordinate the move to this way of working, commissioning for improvement in pupil outcomes and supporting as the local regulator for schools. The most vulnerable schools will require targeted support in this transitional period and an ongoing review of schools will be needed to determine possible risks particularly of schools receiving inadequate judgements in Ofsted inspections.

Staffing (including Trades Unions):

N/A

Equalities/Human Rights:

Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to promote race, gender and disability equality. The analysis of results referred to in this report has therefore included consideration of the outcomes for vulnerable groups. This has identified particular issues related to performance for lower ability girls, boys, students with special educational needs (action and action plus), students receiving free school meals, looked after children and some groups such as Pupils who are Travellers of Irish Heritage and Gypsy/Roma, Pupils from Black Caribbean background and Pupils for whom English is an additional language. These issues have been identified as a priority in the Children and Young People's Plan 'Priority 10: Raise achievement for all learners particularly underachieving groups and children in vulnerable circumstances' and will need to be addressed as part of the raising achievement plan.

Community Safety:

N/A

Sustainability:

It should be noted that schools represent over 50% of the Council's carbon footprint and over 60% of the emissions that the Council has to pay for in the energy efficiency scheme (allowances come to the value of approximately: £207,672). Any future capital programme for schools will need to target a reduction in the carbon footprint and emissions.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Committee notes the content of the Education Vision and comments on the principles outlined.

Background

1. At its meeting on the 5 January 2010 the Committee requested a presentation of the Education Vision at its meeting on the 2 February 2010.
2. The draft vision document is attached at Appendix A.

Conclusion and Next Steps

3. The Education Vision will be presented to the Executive at its meeting on 9 March 2010.

Appendix:

Appendix A – An Educational Vision for Central Bedfordshire 2010 (Draft)