

Executive Response to the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee Report Inquiry on Pupil Attainment

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This report relates to a decision that is not key

Purpose of this report

The report responds to the 21 recommendations made by the pupil attainment task force, a sub-committee of the council's children and young people scrutiny committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The executive is asked to agree the response appended to this report, including the proposed actions to be taken in light of the recommendations of the inquiry.

Overview and Scrutiny Recommendations

1. The children and young people scrutiny committee approved the report of its pupil attainment task force on 22 May 2018. The report made 21 recommendations. These are set out in summary in the appendix to this report, along with proposed action, lead officer / member and deadline dates for the completion of actions.

Background

2. In July 2017 the children and young people scrutiny agreed to undertake an inquiry into the attainment of pupils attending schools in Central Bedfordshire. It set up a working group, the pupil attainment task force, which completed its work in April 2018, reporting its recommendation to the full committee on 22 May 2018.

Summary of the Recommendations and Executive Response

3. There are three services that are accountable for 14 of the 21 recommendations, while seven are the responsibility of the executive, as follows:

| service | Recommendation numbers |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| School improvement | 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 13*, 18 |
| Access and inclusion | 1, 2, 8, |
| Human resources | 13*, 14 |
| Executive | 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20 |

*Joint accountability (school improvement / HR).

4. All the recommendations aside from 10, 11, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 20 have been inserted into the education service's implementation / action plan for 2018/19. The recommendations are summarised in the appendix to this report in column 2, with proposed actions, lead service and deadlines for delivery in columns 4-6 respectively.

Council priorities

5. The proposed action supports one of the council's priorities – **improving education and skills**. The actions proposed address comprehensively the recommendations made by the pupil attainment task force.

Corporate implications

6. There are no implications for the corporate services aside from the actions required by the human relations service and for the executive, which will consider the recommendations as a part of its work programme.

Legal implications

7. The local authority has statutory powers and duties relating to schools and education. The recommendations for action by the school improvement, access and inclusion and HR services and the executive are all within scope of powers and / or duties of local authorities for maintained schools.

Financial and risk implications

8. There are no financial cost arising from most of the actions proposed. Most will be undertaken using existing service budgets. Recommendations that have potential cost implications (recommendations 11 and 16) will be assessed against other priorities by the Executive.

Equalities implications

9. Central Bedfordshire council has a statutory duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and foster good relations in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. At least 12 of the 20 recommendations address the needs of vulnerable pupils and their families.

Conclusion and next steps

10. The task force's recommendations have been important in the strengthening of the education service's action plan. Members of the executive are invited both to comment on the proposed actions and deadline dates, and to receive reports on progress towards achieving the required outcomes.

Appendix: Executive response to the overview and scrutiny inquiry

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