



PAPER F

Purpose: For Decision

Committee report

Committee	CABINET
Date	14 SEPTEMBER 2017
Title	DELIVERING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT - 1 JUNE 2017 TO 31 JULY 2021
Report to	THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This Strategic Plan for School Improvement sets out the key focus areas and associated actions to improve further the quality of education in Isle of Wight schools, in line with the Department for Education's (DfE) letter of direction.
2. This strategic document identifies our key priorities and objectives and is designed to be effective for the remaining timescale of the period of the DfE direction i.e. until the end of July 2018. However, it establishes some clear priorities and action areas that will form the backbone of our strategy to continue the transformation of educational opportunities and outcomes to 2020 and beyond.
3. It is intentionally written as a high level, strategic plan. It is built upon the evaluation of the impact of previous actions and reflects both the encouraging success to date and the considerable challenges that remain.

BACKGROUND

4. In the summer of 2016, progress made since July 2013 was evaluated against the plan to improve education on the Island ('Improving Education on the Isle of Wight' – an evaluation of progress between July 2013 and April 2016). This concluded that significant progress had indeed been made in improving the quality of schools and education standards across the Island.
5. There is still much work to be done, but it is clear that the focus of this work now needs to change to reflect the improvements that have been secured over the past three years and to address a fresh set of challenges.
6. This document sets out the strategy and activities needed to address the key focus areas, and their intended impact. It draws on the evaluation identified above, as well as the analysis of pupils' attainment in Island schools across all the statutory key stages in

2016. It has been written to cover the remaining period of the DfE's letter of direction and beyond.

7. Our strategy remains driven by the desire to be ambitious for all children and young people on the Island. It is this desire that will drive us to challenge underperformance in schools where it exists and to support schools, their leaders and their teachers in developing their practice to deliver further rapid progress in improving education outcomes for all our young people.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

8. The Island deserves an education system that is a source of pride to every learner, parent/carer, educator, business and member of the community. The realisation of this ambition would greatly enhance the quality of life, economic prosperity and social cohesion of the Island. Moreover, the collective drive to achieve this, if widely shared and co-operatively constructed, would transform educational opportunities and success for all pupils.
9. The Isle of Wight Council is pledged to improve the education of all pupils on the Island. We expect that every pupil will have access to a place in a good or better school by 2020/21. More than that, we are committed to driving up standards, step by step, for all pupils whatever their background or starting point. Every pupil should expect to make progress every day through high quality teaching and learning and inspirational leadership. They will be supported and challenged throughout their education and to aspire for successful, rewarding and worthwhile lives on the Island or beyond.
10. We are committed to working closely with all schools on the Island, irrespective of status and governance arrangements, to support their pursuit of high standards. This entails building strong partnerships with a diverse range of stakeholders, organisations, sponsors, businesses and further education institutions who share our ambitions for our pupils.
11. We will play our part in ensuring that our Island schools recruit, retain and motivate teachers of the highest possible calibre; making the Island a beacon of excellence in teacher training and career development; and inaugurating an annual Beacon of Excellence in Island Education Award.
12. This Strategic Plan sets out the actions and support to enable schools to strengthen achievement with the expectation that all will engage and work alongside each other, together with the further education colleges and the Isle of Wight Council.

CONSULTATION

13. The draft plan has been shared widely for comment but there is no requirement to undertake a statutory consultation. A draft version of this plan has been published online. Officers have presented the plan to the Governor Forum and Headteacher Forum during the summer 2017. Comments and discussions have been considered and are reflected in amendments to the plan as appropriate but do not result in any significant change to the plan's key priorities.

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OR PANEL VIEW

14. The draft plan was considered at the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services on Thursday, 29 June 2017.
15. Consideration was given to the ability of the committee to review responses submitted as the result of the consultation exercise. Although the Scrutiny Committee would be able to comment on the final report before it was discussed by Cabinet. Members believed that it would be beneficial for them to have sight of all responses, and any resultant changes to the plan, to enable them to offer any final comments prior to the Cabinet making its decision.

RESOLVED:

- (i) THAT the draft strategic plan be noted
 - (ii) THAT the responses received to the draft plan, and any resultant amendments, be circulated to the committee in advance of the Cabinet making its final decision.
16. Responses have now been reviewed and, where appropriate, incorporated into the final Strategic Plan as presented in this report. These changes have been circulated to the committee as agreed and no further amendments have been suggested.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

17. The activities outlined above will be funded from the dedicated school improvement budget as well as payment from schools, as was the case for the previous iteration of this plan.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

18. The "Duty to promote high standards in primary and secondary education," originates from the 1996 Education Act. This provision was amended in the 2006 Education and Inspections Act to include, "...and the fulfilment of potential." The 2006 Act spells out the responsibility of the local authority to promote high standards; ensure fair access and promote the fulfilment of every child's educational potential. This duty applies to children of compulsory school age and those of any age (up to 20) who are registered as pupils at maintained schools.
19. It is the 2006 Act which also introduces the inspection of LA statutory functions by Ofsted. "The Framework for Inspection of Local Authority Arrangements for Supporting School Improvement," based upon Sections 135 and 136 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006, was published in May 2013. The LA duty to write an action plan following an unsatisfactory Ofsted inspection had already been introduced in the 2005 Education Act.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

20. The council as a public body is required to meet its statutory obligations under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to eliminate unlawful discrimination, promote equal opportunities between people from different groups and to foster good relations

between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

21. Improved educational outcomes benefit all groups but have the most marked impact upon the life chances of the most vulnerable. Outcomes are assessed specifically against the needs of a range of vulnerable groups and the performance of children with special educational needs, those from minority ethnic backgrounds, those living in relative poverty and children in the care of the local authority, in so far as this does not identify individuals, are reported upon in this paper.

SECTION 17 CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

22. The attainment of better educational outcomes has a direct impact upon future economic wellbeing and, therefore, upon potential involvement in criminal activity. Success at school promotes self-esteem, attendance and good behaviour leading to greater community cohesion, adult independence and active citizenship.

OPTIONS

Option 1: Approve the Strategic Plan as set out in the Appendix to this report.

Option 2: Approve the Strategic Plan with amendments

RISK MANAGEMENT

23. A clear understanding of examination results and priorities for improving them is necessary in order to improve school performance on the Island and to mitigate against poor educational outcomes for children and young people.

EVALUATION

24. In the summer of 2016 an evaluation was conducted of the progress that had been made since July 2013 against the plan to improve education on the Island (“**Improving Education on the Isle of Wight**” – **an evaluation of progress between July 2013 and April 2016**). This concluded that significant progress had indeed been made in improving the quality of schools and education standards across the Island.
25. This evaluation was presented to the Children’s Committee and Cabinet in July 2016. The report can be accessed via the background papers to this report (page F5)

RECOMMENDATION

26. Option1- approve the Strategic Plan set out in the Appendix to this report

APPENDICES ATTACHED

27. [APPENDIX](#) - “Delivering Educational Excellence- A strategic plan for school improvement on the Isle of Wight, June 2017 to July 2021”

BACKGROUND PAPERS

28. “Improving Education on the Isle of Wight” – an evaluation of progress between July 2013 and April 2016)
<https://www.iwight.com/Meetings/committees/Children's%20Committee/21-7-16/PAPER%20B.pdf>

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