

Lancashire County Council

Education Scrutiny Committee

Tuesday, 26th March, 2019 at 10.30 am in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston

Agenda

Part I (Open to Press and Public)

No.	Item
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1.	Apologies
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2.	Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests
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Members are asked to consider any Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests they may have to disclose to the meeting in relation to matters under consideration on the Agenda

3.	Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2019	(Pages 1 - 4)
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4.	Exclusions, Attendance, Transport and Elective Home Education	(Pages 5 - 10)
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5.	Update from the Chair	(Verbal Report)
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6.	Education Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2018/19	(Pages 11 - 18)
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7.	Urgent Business
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An item of urgent business may only be considered under this heading where, by reason of special circumstances to be recorded in the Minutes, the Chair of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency. Wherever possible, the Chief Executive should be given advance warning of any Member's intention to raise a matter under this heading.

8.	Date of the Next Meeting
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The next scheduled meeting of the Committee is due to be held at 10.30am on the 18 June 2019 in Cabinet Room 'C' at County Hall, Preston.

County Hall
Preston

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

Lancashire County Council

Education Scrutiny Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 6th February, 2019 at 10.30 am
in Cabinet Room 'C' - The Duke of Lancaster Room, County Hall, Preston**

Present:

County Councillor Christian Wakeford (Chair)

County Councillors

L Beavers	E Nash
A Cheetham	J Potter
S Clarke	J Rear
B Dawson	P Rigby
K Ellard	D Stansfield
A Gardiner	P Steen
N Hennessy	C Towneley
A Kay	

Co-opted members

Mr Ian Beck, Representing RC Schools
Mrs Janet Hamid, Representing Parent Governors
(Secondary)
Dr Sam Johnson, Representing CE Schools
Mr Kenvyn Wales, Representing Free Church Schools

County Councillors Ellard, Hennessy and Rigby replaced County Councillors Dad, Molineux and Smith respectively.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from John Withington.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

None were disclosed.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6 December 2018

Resolved: The minutes from the meetings held on 6 December 2018 be confirmed and as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

4. Children Looked After Attainment

The Chair welcomed Audrey Swann, Headteacher for Children Looked After and Challenging Groups; and Steve Belbin, Interim Director of Education and Skills to the meeting.

The report presented provided details on the attainment of all looked after children (CLA) which was collated at the end of Key Stage 1 and 2 for primary pupils, and the end of Key Stage 4 for secondary pupils.

It was reported that in Key Stage 1 and 2 the focus of assessment was reading, writing and maths. There was a reduction in the percentage of children achieving expected standards Key Stage 1 and was expected to be closer to the national average than in 2016/2017. Regarding Key Stage 2, there was an increase in the percentage of children achieving the expected standard. This was hoped to be above the national average.

Members were advised that in terms of Key Stage 4, the attainment measures were based on Attainment 8 scores related to grades achieved in 8 GCSE examinations. There was an increase in the average Attainment 8 score, which was above the national average.

Regarding the data and statistics, Members requested that figures showing number of pupils and numbers of CLA who had changed schools during the year should be included along with attendance data next time the report would be presented to the committee. It was noted that these figures would be included in the Annual Report.

In relation to the Home Reading Scheme, a question was raised of how the team worked with its colleagues in Social Care and who did the home reading. Members were informed that the person reading with the children was the carer and this was the purpose of the scheme as it would help with bonding. The team worked with the schools to identify the young people and then develop a personal education plan. Regarding Lancashire Looked After Children in neighbouring authorities, LCC had a liaison officer in place to work with these authorities.

The committee was advised that each CLA child had a Personal Education Plan (PEP). The PEPs were being reviewed and hopefully the new designed PEPs would be ready for April and trialled in the summer term.

Resolved: That;

- i. The information on the attainment outcomes for 2017/18 and the work undertaken to address any issues and sustain improvement be noted.
- ii. A Bite Size Briefing be organised once the validated data is made available.

5. Standards in Lancashire Schools 2018

The report presented provided detail of standards in Lancashire schools, together with a summary of judgements by Ofsted.

It was reported that overall standards of achievement were judged to be good, with known areas for improvement.

Members enquired about how schools with good practice were supporting other schools in the county to help with the key priority areas. Members were advised that one example of good practice was the Technical Vocabulary Project which was happening in Secondary Schools. This looked at the use of vocabulary in different subjects. Other priorities were early language development, communication and reading.

Standards of attainment at Foundation Stage had risen marginally in 2018 but was not matched by the national average which had risen much more. Consequently results were below the national average although Lancashire was above the North West average.

The committee was informed that overall Lancashire schools did well and were closely monitored and supported as they came up to Ofsted inspections. There was an Early Years Team to support schools. In addition, all primary schools had an advisor who worked with the Early Years Team and the Headteachers.

Members enquired how Lancashire schools were performing in relation to attendances. They were informed that attendances in Lancashire schools were currently above the national average although attendances did fluctuate in different year groups.

Regarding what impact the children of asylum seekers, refugees and the armed forces had on the figures, the committee was informed that LCC had a service which supported this. Children from the armed forces had a significant impact on results as there was a large turnover of these children as many of them moved during term times. This would lead to low results. The committee was informed that there was a Ministry of Defence Education Support Fund available every year to mitigate this effect.

Resolved: That the standards of achievement by Lancashire children be noted.

6. Education Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2018/19

The work plan for the Education Scrutiny Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year was presented to the Committee. The topics included were identified at the work planning workshop held on 10 July 2018.

The committee requested a future briefing on the new Ofsted framework. The dates of governors' chairs forums was also requested.

Resolved: That;

- i. The report and work plan presented be noted.
- ii. A briefing on the new Ofsted framework be arranged.

7. Urgent Business

There were no items of Urgent Business.

8. Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Education Scrutiny Committee is due to be held on Tuesday 26 March at 10.30am, Cabinet Room C, County Hall, Preston.

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston

Education Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 26th March 2019

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Exclusions, Attendance, Transport and Elective Home Education

Contact for further information:

Stephen Belbin, Tel: 01257 516166, Interim Director for Education and Skills

Stephen.Belbin@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

The report provides detail of issues connected to attendance and exclusions. It provides details about children missing education and those who are educated at home. In addition, it provides detail about school transport.

Recommendations

The Education Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Note the information provided.
- ii. Consider work being undertaken to address any issues and sustain improvement around permanent exclusions.
- iii. Note the review to be undertaken on transport to Pupil Referral Units and consider the wider options available.

Background and Advice

The Local Authority has a range of teams that provide advice and guidance to school leaders on issues regarding attendance and exclusions, working with parents, pupils and schools to try and support pupils at risk of exclusion. Colleagues also work with pupils missing education, or those who are missing out on education, supporting a return to education wherever possible. There are close working relationships with the Virtual School, meeting the needs of children looked after. Teams also work closely with the Inclusion Service (formerly SEND) and Children's Social Care to help and support our most vulnerable children.

As with every Local Authority, more can and must be done to ensure all pupils are able to access the best and most appropriate education possible.

Attendance

Pupil attendance in Lancashire schools is above the national average.

Primary Schools

Overall Absence	England	North West	Lancashire
2017/18	4.2	4.2	4.0
2016/17	4.0	3.9	3.7
2015/16	3.9	3.9	3.6

Attendance rates in primary schools are higher than the local and national averages, with attendance at 96%. Rates of absence are lowest in Chorley and South Ribble, and highest in Preston and Burnley. However, there is a three-year trend of rising absence.

Secondary Schools

Overall absence	England	Lancashire
2017/18	5.4	5.1
2016/17	5.2	4.8
2015/16	5.0	4.7

Rates of attendance are also above the national and north-west averages in secondary schools. Attendance overall stands at 94.9%. Attendance is highest in Chorley, Hyndburn and Preston, and lowest in Burnley and Pendle. There is however a rising trend of absence over the last three years, similar to the national picture.

Permanent Exclusions

Rates of exclusions are well above the national average, at both secondary and primary school.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	17/18
Primary	52	78	55	55
Secondary	192	222	298	314

The picture within primary schools has remained quite stable over the last four years, apart from a sharp rise in 2015/6. However, the rate of exclusions in secondary schools continues to rise.

This chart is taken as a snapshot of exclusions at the end of December, and provides a comparison with the same period last year.

District	Primary		Secondary	
	2018/19	2017/18	2018/19	2017/18
Hyndburn	3	2	10	11
Burnley	1	2	15	8
Pendle	3	2	9	11
Rossendale	1	2	6	11
East	8	8	40	41
Lancaster	1	1	3	9
Wyre	0	0	11	7
Fylde	0	2	5	7
North	1	3	19	22
Preston	4	3	14	18
South Ribble	1	1	13	11
West Lancs	1	0	19	8
Chorley	2	1	4	3
South	8	5	50	40
Totals	17	17	109	103

It also shows wide variations between the districts. It suggests that there has been a reduction in six districts, but substantial rises elsewhere. Evidence would suggest that exclusions rise most noticeably in schools that are judged to require improvement or special measures. There also rise in schools that have recently converted to become an academy.

Work is currently being undertaken to develop inclusion hubs in each district that will provide additional support for schools, such as training, advice and guidance, as well as short-term provision for pupils at risk of exclusion. This will start in primary schools in April 2019, and we will develop our plans for secondary schools over the next academic year.

Elective Home Education

Home education is an option that any family may consider for their children. The responsibility for a child's education rests with their parents. In England, education is compulsory, but school is not. The reasons for deciding on this approach are many, as are the styles of education undertaken. For some families it is a decision based on their philosophical, spiritual or religious outlook; for others it is to meet the specific needs of a child or children. It may be because of dissatisfaction with 'the system' or used as a short-term intervention for a particular reason.

The number of children known to the authority to be home educated is growing. In 2015, the total number of cases registered with Lancashire County Council at any time within the academic year was 921. This grew to 1123 in 2016 and by the end of the last academic year last was 1662. By February this year, the number is already 1519. There are more secondary age children in Elective Home Education (EHE) than primary, with the majority of children in Y9, Y10 and 11.

	2014- 2015	2015- 2016	2016- 2017	2017- 2018	2018-19 (01.09.18 - 25.02.19)
Total no cases registered at any point during the current academic year (broken down as below)	921	1123	1378	1662	1519
Total no Children Year 11	154	146	252	243	306
Total no Children Year 10	138	192	194	295	258
Total no Children Year 9	132	131	210	261	237
Total no Children Year 8	91	146	169	201	197
Total no Children Year 7	97	121	128	184	125
Total no Children Year 6	59	86	105	100	81
Total no Children Year 5	50	77	74	75	80
Total no Children Year 4	66	65	58	84	65
Total no Children Year 3	37	53	65	57	63
Total no Children Year 2	40	51	41	76	54
Total no Children Year 1	35	28	56	52	46
Total no Children Year R	19	24	23	32	5
Total Year Group Unknown	3	3	3	2	2
Female	461	569	679	820	759
Male	460	554	699	842	760

There is no requirement for parents to inform Lancashire County Council of the reasons for electing to home educate. For those that do, a growing number cite medical reasons, including mental health. There is no statutory duty or power to allow the local authority to routinely monitor the quality of home education.

Children Missing out on Education (CMooE)

These are defined in Lancashire as children of compulsory school age who are registered at a school but are:

- not receiving education following official exclusion – either permanent or fixed term; or
- not receiving education as a result of unofficial exclusion; or
- not receiving education as a result of attendance drift.

Children Missing Education (CME)

Children Missing Education are defined as children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not in receipt of education otherwise than at a school (e.g. via college placement or Elective Home Education).

The Children Missing Education offer from Lancashire County Council ensures that we meet our statutory duty under the Education Act 1996 of making arrangements to identify children and young people in Lancashire who are missing education and to track these children into appropriate provision.

The offer from Lancashire County Council also ensures that there are arrangements in place to track children leaving the Lancashire area and that where applicable their whereabouts is notified to the appropriate relevant authority.

Term	Autumn 2017 Referrals	Spring 2018 Referrals	Summer 2018 Referrals	Total
Referrals	756	404	694	1854
Confirmed CME	184	92	206	482
Still open	1	5	23	29

Approximately a quarter of all referrals are pupils who are confirmed to be missing education. The majority of cases are resolved within two – three months, and this is getting less in recent years.

Transport to Pupil Referral Units

For Secondary School pupils that have been permanently excluded there is currently a procedure for providing transport to Pupil Referral Units (PRUs) and other placement locations. The current procedure is that PRUs make direct contact with the appropriate team from LCC's Integrated Transport Service (ITS) requesting that transport be provided. There is an arrangement for PRUs to make emergency arrangements in the interim with budget that they hold but this is not universally undertaken. Where possible ITS will place the pupil on an existing taxi contract but ask for 5 working days' notice when a new contract is required. If there are any changes to arrangements then we aim to vary contracts but where this is not possible and the contract needs to be cancelled then the taxi operators may be entitled to 4 weeks' notice.

The cost of taxi contracts to PRUs during 2017/18 academic year was £844,400. The school year began with 158 pupils being transported to the various units across the county. By the end of the school year that figure had peaked at 208 in January 2018 before ending the year at 203. There is evidence that both the cost of this provision and the number of permanently excluded pupils travelling by taxi is increasing at a pace and current passenger numbers are almost double in comparison to those in 2016.

It is planned to seek more efficient ways of providing transport to PRUs than always setting up a taxi contract. In assessing each new pupil's transport to the placement that they are to attend we will be looking to devise a process that will involve assessing whether there may be an appropriate bus service for which a pass can be made available that will enable the pupil to make the journey by public transport. Where no bus service is available then a taxi will be commissioned. There will be

other circumstances where it may be assessed that it would not be appropriate for a pupil to travel on a bus service and, in such circumstances, the pupil would be transported by taxi.

We will be discussing these revised arrangements with the PRU Headteachers to make sure that the new procedures will meet their needs as well as delivering cost savings and consider concerns or improvements to the process that they may suggest.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

Risk management

There are no significant risk implications associated with this report.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

N/A

Education Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 26 March 2019

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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Education Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2018/19

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

Samantha Parker, Tel: 01772538221, Senior Democratic Services Officer,

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Executive Summary

The work programme for the Education Scrutiny Committee is attached at Appendix 'A'.

The topics included were identified at the work planning workshop held on 10 July 2018.

Recommendation

The Education Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Note and comment on the report and work programme;
- ii. Discuss and confirm the topics scheduled for the next meeting and reasons for scrutiny.

Background and Advice

A statement of the work to be undertaken and considered by the Education Scrutiny Committee for the 2018/19 municipal year is set out at Appendix 'A'.

The work programme will be presented to each meeting for consideration.

Members are requested to note and comment on the report and to discuss and confirm the topics scheduled for the next meeting and reasons for scrutiny.

Consultations

NA

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

This report has no significant risk implications.

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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NA		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

NA

Education Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2018/19

The Education Scrutiny Committee Work Programme details the planned activity to be undertaken over the forthcoming municipal year through scheduled Committee meetings, task group, events and through use of the 'rapporteur' model.

The items on the work programme are determined by the Committee following the work programming session at the start of the municipal year in line with the Overview and Scrutiny Committees terms of reference detailed in the County Councils Constitution. This includes provision for the rights of County Councillors to ask for any matter to be considered by the Committee or to call-in decisions.

Coordination of the work programme activity is undertaken by the Chair and Deputy Chair of all of the Scrutiny Committees to avoid potential duplication.

In addition to the terms of reference outlined in the [Constitution](#) (Part 2 Article 5) for all Overview and Scrutiny Committees, the Education Scrutiny Committee will:

- Scrutinise matters relating to education delivered by the authority and other relevant partners
- Fulfil all the statutory functions of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee as they relate to education functions of a Children's Services Authority

The Work Programme will be submitted to and agreed by the Scrutiny Committees at each meeting and will be published with each agenda.

The dates are indicative of when the Education Scrutiny Committee will review the item, however they may need to be rescheduled and new items added as required.

Topic	Scrutiny Purpose (objectives, initial outcomes)	Scrutiny Method	Lead Officers/ Organisation	Proposed Date(s)	Recommendations	Progress
Meeting						
Maintained Nursery Schools	Financial situation facing nursery school provision	Meeting	Helen Belbin Andrew Good Nursery Headteacher	25 June 2018	The outcome of the nursery task group be reported back to the Committee in November.	Completed
SEN Attainment	Update from the joint meeting around initiatives to support progress	Meeting	Steve Belbin	25 June 2018	Report noted. No further recommendations.	NA
Schools causing concern	Impact on services involved in support schools causing concern	Meeting	Debbie Ormerod Steve Belbin Mel Ormesher Steph Rhodes	10 September 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Formation of a task group looking at school improvement for schools facing challenges. 2. Further consideration be given to potential targeted support from local councillors with officers for under-subscribed schools or where there were signs a school may be having difficulties. 3. An annual report come to the Education Scrutiny Committee on school admissions and schools causing concern. 	<p>Task group first meeting in January.</p> <p>Annual report scheduled for November 2019</p>

Schools in Financial Difficulty	Funding issues and impact on schools, staffing needs/support systems to share good practice	Meeting	Andrew Good Helen Belbin Steve Belbin	6 December 2018	An update on the figures of schools in financial difficulty including how this has transitioned over time be presented to a future meeting of the Committee.	
The Future of Maintained Nursery Provision	Update following conclusion of task group work	Meeting	Andrew Good Steve Belbin Helen Belbin	6 December 2018	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An all-party Notice of Motion be submitted to February Full Council around the funding formula from Central Government. 2. An update from the working group be presented to the June 2019 meeting. 	<p>Letter sent to Damian Hinds MP 1/3/19</p> <p>Scheduled on work programme</p>
School Governors	Skills, training, financial challenges facing schools, recruitment	Meeting	LASGB Ajay Sethi Margaret Scrivens	6 December 2018	Details of chairs forums be circulated to members along with details of governor vacancies in all districts.	Completed
Lancashire Schools Attainment	Standards of achievement in Lancashire Schools	Meeting	Steve Belbin	6 February 2019	Report noted. No further recommendations.	NA
CLA attainment	Progress of attainment levels for children looked after	Meeting	Audrey Swann	6 February 2018	A Bite Size Briefing be organised once the validated data is made available.	Request sent to Member Development

School Attendance	Missing from home and education Elective Home Education Transport impact	Meeting	Frances Molloy	26 March 2019		
Permanent Exclusions in Lancashire Schools	Review of permanent exclusions in Lancashire	Meeting	Steve Belbin Dr Sally Richardson	26 March 2019		
Early Years Education	Overview of provision across Lancashire EY funding to 2020 – securing extra funding?	Meeting	TBC	18 June 2019		
School Finance update	Update from the December meeting Special measures funding impact	Meeting	Andrew Good Steve Belbin	18 June 2019		
Maintained Nursery Provision	Progress update on working group	Meeting	Andrew Good Helen Belbin	18 June 2019		
Post 16 EET	Update	Meeting	TBC	TBC		
SEND Transport Policy	Review of policy	Meeting	TBC	TBC		

School Admissions/Schools Causing Concern update	Annual update	Meeting	TBC	November 2019		
Inquiry Day						
SEND (joint Education and Children's Services)	Social skills/connections between YOT and teen suicide Transition from primary to high school	Inquiry Day	Dr Sally Richardson	TBC		
Bite Size Briefing						
Online Safeguarding	Overview from training provided by LSCB	Bite Size Briefing	LSCB	27 February 2019		Completed
School Admissions	Overview of code and legislation	Bite Size Briefing	Debbie Ormerod	10 September 2018		Completed
Ofsted report	Overview of report detail	Bite Size Briefing	Amanda Hatton	4 Oct 2018		Completed
Education update	Update on changes to the education landscape	Bite Size Briefing	Steve Belbin	TBC		

New Ofsted Framework		Bite Size Briefing	Steve Belbin	TBC		
CLA Attainment	Validated data including bigger picture commentary inc attendance data, numbers of pupils and school changes	Bite Size Briefing	Audrey Swann	TBC		
Briefing Note						
Pupil tracking	From primary to secondary faith schools	Briefing Note	Steve Belbin	April 2019		
Summer Born Policy	Overview of policy and process in place	Briefing Note	Debbie Ormerod	April 2019		
Rapporteur						
Online Safeguarding	TBC – after BSB date confirmed	Rapporteur	John Withington	TBC		

Additional topics:

- SEND Transport Policy
- Post 16 EET
- Parking enforcement at schools