

**Task and Finish Group Request Form**

<b>Date: 10/9/18</b>	<b>Requested by: Education Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>Chair: CC Christian Wakeford</b>	
<b>Title: Schools Causing Concern - Support Arrangements</b>	

<b>Purpose of the task and finish group</b>	<p>At the Education Scrutiny Committee held on 10 September 2018, members were provided with a detailed report and presentation on the journey of schools causing concern and the impact on services. The report provided details on the package of support provided to schools that are deemed to be in difficulty through the school improvement services and also included information on the impact on services such as school admissions, finance and place planning (see below link to report).</p> <p><a href="http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=181&amp;MId=9157&amp;Ver=4">http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=181&amp;MId=9157&amp;Ver=4</a></p> <p>From the extensive information provided to members and the subsequent discussion, two recommendations were agreed by the Committee to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Establish a task and finish group to further explore the service provision around schools causing concern</li> <li>ii. Provide an annual report to the committee on school admissions and schools causing concern</li> </ol> <p>The Committee felt that given the volume and broad range of information provided at this meeting, it would be more beneficial to further explore the impact of schools in difficulty/causing concern on families and services in Lancashire as part of a task and finish group to allow for a more comprehensive study.</p>
<b>Initial outcomes identified</b>	<p>The following key areas were identified as potential initial outcomes with a view to identifying a more detailed work plan as part of the first meeting of the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To further understand the service provision across school admissions, school improvement and place planning in relation to schools in difficulty/causing concern.</li> <li>• To explore the current schools infrastructure in Lancashire (community, free schools, academies, voluntary etc) to further understand the potential implications to the local authority, pupils and parents where a decision is taken to close a school.</li> </ul>