

Education Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Wednesday, 5 February 2020

Electoral Division affected: (All Divisions);
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Schools Causing Concerns Task and Finish Group Final Report (Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

Provided at Appendix 'A' is the report of the School Causing Concerns Task and Finish Group. The findings of this report have led to a number of recommendations being formulated which are contained with Appendix 'A'.

Recommendation

The Education Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- i. Note the content of the report;
- ii. Support the recommendations of the task and finish group, as set out in the report at Appendix A.
- iii. Consider the appropriate mechanism for reviewing the responses to the Task Group's recommendations.

Background and Advice

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 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.

Membership of the task and finish group

The task and finish group was made up of the following County Councillors:

- Ian Brown (chair)
- Andrea Kay
- Cosima Towneley

- Jenny Purcell/Stephen Clarke
- Bernard Dawson
- Lorraine Beavers
- John Potter
- Jayne Rear (chair until May 2019)

The report included as at Appendix 'A' is the final report of the task group. This report summarises the findings from the task group work which has sought to further understand what constitutes a school categorised as 'causing concern', the provision to these schools from the county council and the pressures faced by schools.

The task group work primarily focused on gathering background information, reviewing case studies on schools categorised as 'causing concern' and interviewing officers from various county council services that support schools such as:

- School Improvement Service
- Schools Finance
- Governor Services
- School Place Planning

In addition, a key element of the information gathering process included seeking to understand how the support is viewed from a service user's perspective.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Legal and finance

Recommendations are made for further consideration and this would need to include a full assessment of the legal and financial risk and implications.

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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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate
N/A