

Recommendations of the Children, Families and Skills Committee 20 September 2023

At its meeting of the 20 September 2023, the committee considered a report on Academisation and Commercialisation and the Education Strategy Annual Report 2023. A written response has been provided to the recommendations by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills and is detailed below.

Item 5 – Academisation and Commercialisation

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i. The Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee thank the Education Improvement Service and support the Academisation and Commercialisation report.**
- ii. An update on Academisation and Commercialisation be provided to the committee in 12 months.**

Agreed, a further report will be scheduled for next year.

Item 6 – Education Strategy Annual Report 2023

Resolved: That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i. An update on Home Education (to include the number of children who are home educated in Lancashire, and where possible, attainment data on what they go on to achieve e.g., at college) to be presented to the committee at the January 2024 meeting, or at an appropriate time.**

We have consulted with other local authorities and helped to draft a response to the consultation on new EHE guidance to be issued by the department for education. The new guidance is more robust in allowing the local authority to ask parents for evidence of a suitable education and ensuring they contact us at least annually. It is unlikely this guidance will come into effect this year, but it is helpful to know when it does arrive it is likely to strengthen our legal position regarding EHE.

Currently we have around 2000 children on our EHE list. For a significant number of these children, we haven't had contact in the last year. In December, we have sent out communications to all Year 10 and Year 11 EHE children to offer careers advice and guidance but also to ensure that those who respond don't need further contact from the team. We have also had several bounce back as they no longer live at that address. We can then refer these children to CME to follow up with where the children have left. In January we are cross checking the children with their council tax records to ensure they do still live in Lancashire at those addresses. Once this cross checking has been completed, we will then contact the families still left on the list without a contact. We will ask families to get in touch before a certain date which will hopefully instil some urgency in contacting the authority. If families don't contact us by that date, we will utilise the CFW workforce to complete home visits to ensure families still live at these addresses, are EHE and offer support from the EHE team. As this will be very labour intensive, we are using the approaches above first to narrow down the numbers of children and then action home visits / referrals to CME where necessary.

- ii. **A piece of work to be completed to understand the reasons behind persistent absence, using data from the termly visits conducted by Attendance Workers, to be circulated to the committee when available.**

The results of a recent survey into persistent absence in our schools gave us these results:

What are the main reasons for persistent absence in your school please rank?

More Details

- 1 • Anxiety
- 2 • Depression/other mental health needs
- 3 • Extended leave/travel
- 4 • Special Educational Needs and/or Disability
- 5 • Withdrawn or difficult behaviours
- 6 • Pupil disengagement from school
- 7 • Family disengagement from school
- 8 • Other (please state below)
 - Transport issues
 - Other reasons included: illness, other health reasons, unauthorised holidays

- iii. **Details of the number of permanent exclusions, broken down by district, including details of any specific clusters and trends to be circulated to the committee.**

District	Primary		Secondary	
	Sept 22 Jul 23	Sept 21 Aug 22	Sept 22 Jul 23	Sept 21 Aug 22
South Ribble	8	2	66	52
Preston	8	5	66	48
Lancaster	5	4	64	37
Hyndburn and Ribble Valley	7	1	27	26
Burnley	2	4	42	23
Chorley	4	1	38	28

Pendle	3	-	43	18
West Lancs	4	2	31	22
Rossendale	2	3	27	20
Fylde	4	3	17	16
Wyre	5	2	33	22
Totals	53	27	445	316

iv. **Details of the percentage and raw numbers of families not receiving any of their top three choices in secondary school admissions, and a breakdown by district to be circulated to the committee.**

Secondary school admissions for January 2023:

District	Total Pupils	1st Pref	%age	2nd Pref	%age	3rd Pref	%age	Total%age	LA Alloc	%age
Lancaster & Morecambe	1489	1318	88.5	121	8.1	20	1.4	98	30	2
Wyre	1328	1161	87.4	108	8.1	31	2.4	97.9	28	2.1
Fylde	716	631	88.1	39	5.5	20	2.8	96.4	26	3.6
Preston	1857	1483	79.9	153	8.2	63	3.4	91.5	158	8.5
South Ribble	1719	1435	83.5	162	9.4	57	3.3	96.2	65	3.8
West Lancashire	1398	1233	88.2	109	7.8	23	1.7	97.9	33	2.3
Chorley	1191	1001	84	87	7.4	36	3	94.3	67	5.6
Hyndburn & Ribble Valley	1801	1723	95.7	54	3	20	1.1	99.8	4	0.2
Burnley	1139	1066	93.6	50	4.4	16	1.4	99.4	7	0.6
Pendle	1051	952	90.6	60	5.7	13	1.2	97.5	26	2.5
Rossendale	1006	862	85.6	63	6.3	36	3.6	95.5	45	4.5

v. **Details of the cost to schools for a Behaviour Consultant to be circulated to the committee.**

Course fees (online fees**)	Full day	Half day and twilights above 2 hours	Twilights (up to 2 hours)	2 days	3 days	Conference
	£189 (£165)	£99 (£85)	£55 (£45)	£350 (£300)	£500 (£450)	£219 (£185)
	4 days	5 days	2 half days	3 half days	4 half days	
	£650 (£600)	£800 (£750)	£179 (£155)	£269 (£220)	£359 (£285)	
INSET Charges	Time			Prep allowance	In School	Online

Delivering Training	Up to 1 hour	1 hour	N/A	£200	
	2 hours	2 hours	£395	£350	
	Half day (3 hours)	3 hours	£495	£450	
	Full day (6 hours)	4 hours	£825	£750	
Consultancy (support & advice)	Per hour (minimum charge 2 hours)	None	£100	£100	
Additional Preparation or Follow Up Time (Report Writing/ Next Steps after a visit if required for example)			£50	£50	
Practical session for parents	£350 (up to 2 hours)	Parents meeting	£250 (up to 2 hours)		
Practical session for children	£100 per hour, minimum charge 2 hours				
Cluster charges	Time	Prep allowance	In School	Online	
Delivering Training to a maximum of 25 people Quote can be provided for any cluster bookings for more than 25 people	Up to 1 hour	1 hour	N/A	£300	
	2 hours	2 hours	£520	£475	
	Half day (3 hours)	3 hours	£620	£575	
	Full day (6 hours)	4 hours	£950	£875	
Discounts for block bookings for schools and clusters	6+ sessions	10+ sessions	20+ sessions	25+ sessions	20+ sessions
	5%	10%	15%	20%	15%

- vi. **A structure chart or diagram to illustrate the different services which are offered to schools, including their roles and responsibilities be circulated to the committee at an appropriate time.**

[SLA - Lancashire Professional Development Service](#)

This link above provides a list of all services that have a traded service to schools.

Other services that school receive as part of our statutory duty include Admissions, Appeals, Virtual School support for children looked after, employment support/careers support for children looked after, SEND casework, Attendance advice and support, careers support and guidance for those at risk for NEET in schools, Equality and Diversity support, team around the school and settings support from Education partnership officers in their locality groups.