

Meeting of the Full Council – 2 October 2014

Report on the Education Scrutiny Committee Meeting 15 July 2014

Chair: County Councillor Cynthia Dereli

The agenda and minutes of the meeting may be viewed on the County Council's web site via the following link:

<http://council.lancashire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=181>

Lancashire Learning Excellence

The report provided an update on the school facing traded services which were delivered by the county council to education providers within Lancashire and beyond the county. Lancashire had a long history of delivering high quality services to support schools and other educational providers in delivering to children and young people.

It was explained that the 2011 Education White Paper "The importance of teaching" stressed that local authorities should develop a new relationship with their schools around delivering services. Lancashire undertook a major review with all school partners across the Autumn of 2011 and Spring 2012 focussing on the types of traded services which were valued and which schools wanted the county council to deliver. That consultation led to a refinement in the services that were offered through Lancashire Learning Excellence and the way in which services were presented through the schools portal.

It was agreed that a further update report be brought back to the Education Scrutiny Committee at an appropriate point in 2015.

Lancashire Youth Council Consultation Report

The report explained that, in September 2013, the Chair of the Education Scrutiny Committee had asked members of Lancashire Youth Council to carry out a consultation that would enable them to identify any barriers to education that young people faced.

It summarised the findings from a consultation carried out by the Youth Council, which indicated that young people were facing a number of issues that were seen by them as barriers to learning, many of which were already being addressed both within the education establishment and by external partners and organisations.

Education Scrutiny Committee was asked to consider and comment on the findings of the consultation and in particular on the three recommendations identified by the Youth Council, set out in the report.

Members acknowledged that mental health issues were well recognised as a barrier to learning and that factors such as the rapid growth of social media had led to the

emergence of many complex issues with potentially serious outcomes for young people.

It was agreed that:

- County council officers be asked to consider the three recommendations of the Youth Council, as set out in the report presented, and report back to the Education Scrutiny Committee on action taken;
- A task group be established to investigate issues around emotional health and wellbeing of young people as a barrier to learning, and support the work of the Youth Council in this connection.

Report of the Pupil Premium and Attainment Task Group

The report of the Pupil Premium and Attainment Task Group was presented and its recommendations were supported by the Education Scrutiny Committee.

The Chair accepted a suggestion that the task group report be regarded as a 'living document' and Bob Stott, Director for Universal and Early Support Services, undertook to raise with Jonathan Hewitt, Head of Quality and Continuous Improvement, how further examples of good practice could be included.

It was agreed that:

- An initial response from the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People be provided to the Committee at its next meeting in October;
- A checklist or guidance for schools' leadership and governors as set out at recommendation 7 be provided to the Committee at its meeting in March 2015; and
- A full response from the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People be provided to the Committee at its meeting in March 2015.