

Education Scrutiny Committee
Meeting to be held on 24 March 2015

Electoral Division affected: None

Pupil Premium Task Group final response
(Appendices A & B refer)

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Executive Summary

Final response of the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools to the report of the Education Scrutiny Task Group on the attainment of Pupils eligible for Free School Meals

Recommendation

The Committee is asked to note and comment on the report

Background and Advice

At its meeting on 16 July 2013, the Education Scrutiny Committee resolved to establish a task group to explore the issues on the Educational Attainment of Pupils eligible for Free School Meals and begin to identify possible actions. The report was presented to the Education Scrutiny Committee on 15th July 2014 with a number of recommendations.

The report provides evidence of the good work that is being carried out by schools across Lancashire to raise the achievement of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals and a number of examples of good practice are cited. The good progress made in the Early Years and the Primary phase is recognised. It is, however, a concern that the performance of pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals in Lancashire at the end of Key Stage 4 remains below the national average for this group of pupils and well below those from more advantaged backgrounds.

The Cabinet Member thanks the Education Scrutiny Committee for their report on this important issue and sets out his response to the individual recommendations below.

Task Group Recommendation	Response
<p>1.The gap between the achievement of those in receipt of the Pupil Premium and their peers, particular at the end of KS4 must continue to be a key focus for schools, and that the County Council must retain a close overview of the performance of this group, including regular reporting to Councillors.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An action plan is in place to continue to raise the achievement of disadvantaged pupils, particularly those who are eligible for Free School Meals in the secondary phase. (see Appendix A) • The headteacher of a Lancashire secondary school recognised nationally for work with FSM pupils has been appointed as chair of the Secondary School Strategic Overview Group which informs the work of Teaching Schools. • The great majority of secondary schools have established clusters to develop and share best practice in raising the achievement of FSM pupils
<p>2.The work being undertaken by Schools, with support from the County Council, to create an ethos of inclusivity, caring and community focus that in many schools is helping to bridge the gap for FSM pupils is recognised and applauded.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback to Headteachers is provided through Headteacher Associations and termly Headteacher Forums • The Education Scrutiny Report has been shared with schools.
<p>3.The issues that can arise in the transition from primary school to secondary school are recognised by all concerned, especially for vulnerable pupils, and that the County Council considers what they can do to support good practice in this area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The issue of transition from primary to secondary school has been raised with both the primary and secondary headteacher associations and they are currently meeting to see how they can work together more effectively • The development of new assessment models is being informed by the need to secure effective transition from primary to secondary schools
<p>4. The County Council considers how best to facilitate partnerships between schools where there are aspirations in relation to the use of Pupil Premium money which are limited by financial constraints</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary schools have established a Strategic Overview Group to inform collaborative work and raising the achievement of FSM pupils is a key priority for this group • 13 clusters of secondary schools are working together on raising achievement for FSM pupils • A website to facilitate the sharing of

	<p>good practice between primary schools, including Teaching Schools, has been launched. This will enable good practice on raising the achievement of FSM pupils will be shared.</p>
<p>5. The benefits flowing from the Pupil Premium budgets are recognised, and that therefore the County Council continues, in partnership with the District Councils in Lancashire to address the issue of take up of benefits, and that these efforts, particularly in the context of forthcoming changes to Free School Meals for all Key Stage 1 children, are sustained</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County Council is working with District Councils to help ensure that as many children as possible benefit from the Pupil Premium Grant.
<p>6. The County Council considers how it can work in partnership with schools where there are particular community or locality barriers to achievement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raising achievement in parts of the County where achievement is low is a key priority for the County Council and work is underway to raise achievement in these areas, (specifically in Burnley, Pendle, Hyndburn and Preston)
<p>7. The County Council develops a check list or guidance for schools' leadership and governors to use as a tool for assessing their use of Pupil Premium, based on the good practice identified and set out in this report</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The report sets out a helpful framework to support leaders and governors in reviewing their provision for pupils who are eligible for FSM. Guidance and a self-evaluation tool (see Appendix B) has been made available to schools. Where appropriate, support has been given in carrying out a review of the use of the Pupil Premium Grant.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

There are no risk management implications.

Financial, Legal, Equality and Diversity, Human Rights, Crime and Disorder, Personnel, Property Asset Management, Procurement, Traffic Management, CIA (policies and strategies only):

N/A

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

Paper	Date	Contact/Directorate/Tel
N/A	N/A	N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A