

Meeting of the Full Council – 21 May 2015

Report on the Education Scrutiny Committee Meeting 24 March 2015

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>

Pupil Premium Task Group final response

The report of the Pupil Premium Task Group had been presented to the Education Scrutiny Committee on 15 July 2014 with a number of recommendations.

The report now presented provided evidence of the good work that was being carried out by schools across Lancashire to raise the achievement of pupils eligible for Free School Meals.

It was agreed that a further update report be provided in twelve months, to include:

- information about progress with schools where there are community or locality barriers to achievement,
- information about progress regarding the longer term objectives in response to the Task Group's recommendations; and
- Achievements for this cohort of students.

Provision of Information and Guidance (IAG) to young people

The report provided the background to the current position regarding information and guidance (IAG) across schools and also the services provided to targeted vulnerable groups.

Members of the Youth Council also attended and explained that the Youth Council had produced a report on careers advice and guidance provision for 14 -16 year olds in Lancashire, which contained four recommendations.

It was agreed that:

- i. Officers and the Youth Council be thanked for their reports;
- ii. The importance of IAG and the difficulty in delivering a standard offer in current circumstances be recognised;
- iii. Officers be asked to circulate the report of the Youth Council as appropriate;
- iv. The report of the Youth Council be formally presented to the July 2015 meeting of this Committee, focusing in particular on the four recommendations;

- v. A report be provided by officers setting out the response from the County Council and relevant partners to the Youth Council's recommendations.

The achievement of Lancashire Children Looked After (CLA) in 2014

The Committee received a report which provided information on the attainment, progress and achievements of Lancashire Children Looked After (CLA) in 2014.

It was agreed that,

- i. Officers be thanked for their report;
- ii. The head teacher for Looked After and Vulnerable Children be invited to a future meeting of this Committee
- iii. That a report be provided which addressed the particular concerns raised:
 - That consideration be given to improve placement stability;
 - That CLA be placed in schools rated good or better wherever possible;
 - That schools be more innovative in their use of Pupil Premium funding;
 - That consideration be given to how best to support SENCOs and other relevant professionals to enable them to support CLA and address emotional factors affecting low attainment;
 - The need to strengthen partnerships between schools and other agencies such as CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) and transport providers;
 - The need to support and signpost foster carers to available resources; and
 - That there be a greater emphasis on progress rather than achievement.

School attendance of pupils in Lancashire and the rate of exclusion from school

The Committee received a report which outlined the most recent attendance and exclusion figures for primary, secondary and special schools in Lancashire, with national comparators.

It was agreed that

- i. Officers be thanked for their report and for the work being done to address school attendance ; and
- ii. A further update report be provided in twelve months.

Validated GCSE Data

The following link through which validated GCSE data for 2013/14 could be accessed was provided for information:

[Performance Tables - The Department for Education - School and College](#)