

## Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 7 December 2017

### Report of the Corporate Director of Operations and Delivery

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:  
All

### Lancashire Ambition School Improvement and Learning and Skills – A Vision for Educational Settings in Lancashire from the Earliest Years to Young People aged up to 25

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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#### Executive Summary

This report launches the introduction of 'Lancashire Ambition', a vision to secure the best educational and employment outcomes for all Lancashire children and young people. It is presented for formal approval by Cabinet, and sets out expectations and action to achieve this ambition starting with early years, school and post 16 learning and skills for ages 0-25.

#### Recommendation

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- (i) Approve the Lancashire Ambition as set out at Appendix 'A'; and
- (ii) Agree to its use within all early years, educational, learning and skills settings where children and young people attend, encouraging full support from all other partners and stakeholders.

#### Background and Advice

Lancashire County Council intends to exercise its leadership and statutory functions, through the School Improvement and Learning and Skills services, to ensure that every child has the fullest opportunity and, where necessary, support to achieve their potential with the emphasis being on early years, which is so critical to a child's development and ongoing progress through education and into employment.

The county council recognises it fulfils an important role in setting every child on the path to success, and will be responsible for directly delivering some services and commissioning others, whilst also using its influence to ensure this ambition is shared and applied by all, for the benefit of all children.

Lancashire Ambition joins up our vision, across all phases of education, for all groups and individuals. All Lancashire's children and young people have the right to achieve and aspire to be the very best they can, to make the most of their lives and to do so within a safe, secure environment. Ensuring all our children and young people have access to a suitable educational offer is one important aspect in achieving this. We will work in partnership with all our stakeholders to achieve this.

Through working together with schools and other educational settings, such as early years settings, colleges of further education, sixth form colleges and learning providers, with children, young people and their parents and carers, we can take ownership for crucial stages of a young person's life, supporting the ambitions this document presents.

Lancashire County Council wants to work 'with', and not 'to' our partners, both undertaking and sharing responsibility, in order to keep all children and young people safe and able to perform to the very best of their abilities. This principle is underpinned by the commitment to ensure the views of children and young people are heard. It is about challenge for all, to maximise the outcomes for all.

Children and young people of compulsory school age have a right to a suitable education. However, some are missing out on full time education and this increases the risk of them failing academically, and the possibility of them becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) in later life.

This document has been prepared to provide an overview of key policy areas and work in key stages. The residents of Lancashire learn in many settings and therefore, this document is not limited to a specific setting, but to all. When we refer to Lancashire, we are not referring to Lancashire County Council but to all that serve the children and young people of Lancashire. This has to be partnership working.

This document affirms the commitment of Lancashire County Council, particularly in the service areas of School Improvement and Learning and Skills, as either the strategic lead or partner organisation. It aims to bring understanding to the priorities of the respective key stages, and of our work with local delivery and strategic partners. This document guides the principle of working in partnership.

The Lancashire Ambition School Improvement and Learning and Skills is set out at Appendix 'A'.

## **Consultations**

The priorities in this document have been shared and developed with a number of key stakeholders such as schools and other educational settings and forums.

**Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

**Risk Management**

Whilst no significant risks have been identified, it is important to note that the local authority has a number of statutory duties in relation to both school improvement and learning and skills. The Lancashire Ambition provides a focus for meeting these duties, such as promoting high standards and allowing every child to fulfil their education potential.

**Financial**

N/A

**List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A