

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday, 9 November 2021

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Draft Education Strategy 2022-2025

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

This report presents the draft Lancashire's Education Strategy 2022-2025 for consideration. The Strategy is due to be reported to a future meeting of Cabinet for approval.

The Education Strategy sets out our priorities for Education for the next three years. It is anticipated that an annual report will be presented to the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee against the key priorities within the Strategy.

The Strategy links with the following Corporate Priorities (agreed at Cabinet, 7 October 2021):

- Delivering Better Services
- Caring for the Vulnerable
- Protecting our Environment
- Supporting Economic Growth

Recommendation

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

- Consider the draft Strategy and support the priorities set out within it.
- Support the request for an annual reporting cycle through the Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee.
- Discuss and agree any further recommendations for consideration by Cabinet.

Background and Advice

Lancashire has much to celebrate in terms of educational outcomes. Year on year at all age phases Lancashire performs in line with national comparators. This means that most children do well academically in our Lancashire schools and settings. By settings we mean we mean nursery education, specialist colleges etc.

Our aspiration is high for all children and young people, regardless of their starting point and, as a large and diverse county, we know that some children do much better than others and from different starting points. This differential of experience underpins the purpose of this Education Strategy and it is also articulated clearly within the Children and Young People's Strategic Board vision where the emphasis is on '**All children achieving their full potential**'.

The ambition of the Education Strategy is to support integration across services so that barriers to learning can be overcome, particularly for those vulnerable groups including those eligible for Free School Meals (FSM), Children In Need (CiN), children with a Care Plan (CP), and Children Looked After (CLA), as well as those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) support and those with an Education Health and Care plan (EHCP). This will be realised through the implementation of the Team around the School and Settings model that will facilitate a partnership response to persistent issues that are preventing children and young people from achieving their full potential.

The vision of the county council is that we are helping to make Lancashire the best place to live, work, visit and prosper.

We will continue to focus on addressing the inequity of experience across the county by adopting a warranted variation locality approach. Using data intelligently, feedback, Quality Assurance/audit processes, analysis of complaints, and working with schools and settings, support will be targeted to ensure that there is a partnership approach to delivering these five key priorities:

- Improved outcomes in early years
- Further reduce exclusions, both permanent and suspensions
- Address risks associated with rising numbers of Elective Home Education (EHE) where this is not in the best interests of the child
- Improve outcomes for vulnerable groups including those eligible for Free School Meals, Children in Need, children with a Care Plan, and Children Looked After, as well as those with SEN support and those with an EHCP
- Increase the number of children and young people in Education, Employment and Training (EET)

Consultations

It is vital that the Education Strategy and its delivery mechanisms are co-owned and co-delivered by all the key stakeholders across the county with a vested interest in education. For this reason, a consultation timeline was developed to ensure that all key stakeholders were able to contribute to it. The consultation timeline began in March 2020 with all schools and governors consulted through a series of roadshow

events on the delivery mechanism of Team around the School and Settings. Following the onset of the pandemic, further consultations have taken place on the Education Strategy with representative groups including Headteacher groups, Governor groups, Maintained Nursery School headteachers, and Diocesan and faith representatives.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The Local Authority's position within education has changed with schools having increased autonomy through the growth of academisation.

All local authorities are seeing a growth in terms of the numbers of academies albeit that the majority of our Lancashire schools are still maintained. Therefore, in Lancashire, the need for a coherent vision that reaches out to all schools for education is even more important as more of our schools convert to academy status by joining or becoming Multi Academy Trusts (MATs). Despite this mixed market economy of providers, there remain statutory duties set out within education legislation including the Education Act 2011.

Currently there are:

- 175,701 pupils at 628 schools.
- 56 schools are academies and 572 maintained by Lancashire County Council
- 2,386 attended nursery schools
- 101,399 children attended primary schools
- 67,694 children attended secondary schools
- 3,069 attended special schools
- 906 pupils attended pupil referral units

Without a clearly articulated vision for education, the county council is at risk of exacerbating the impact of COVID on educational outcomes. Prior to the pandemic, a gap existed between all children and those in more challenging circumstances, the Education Strategy will address these inequities through a collaborative, partnership response that uses data and local intelligence to relentlessly drive educational excellence for all.

The Education Improvement team is committed to ensuring that collaborative school improvement delivers high quality provision in all areas. There is recognition of the need to ensure that all Lancashire schools maintain an inclusive approach to education that meets the needs of all learners, particularly within the context of the pandemic, and learning from that experience so that:

- Outcomes for children and young people are good or better across all stages

- Inequalities and inequities are addressed and improve outcomes so that all children and young people achieve well, with particular focus on those in priority groups
- There are sufficient quality places for our youngest children in early years, that deliver good outcomes for all and plan effectively to meet future demand
- Deliver high quality primary provision based on a rich, connected curriculum that deepens learning and equips pupils for the demands of secondary school
- Provide a rich, inclusive and engaging secondary curriculum that enables all learners to achieve at least expected progress and prepares them for post 16/18.

Finance

The cost of delivering the Education Strategy, and the implementation are integral to the current budget. There will be no additional costs.

Legal

Relevant legal frameworks that underpin this strategy are the Equalities Act 2010 and education legislation including the Education Act 2011 and the Academies Act 2010 as well as relevant legislation including but not limited to the 1996 Act, Education and Inspections Act and Children and Families Act 2014 and the regulations and guidance issued under them such as Schools Causing Concern.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Annex 1: Pillars of the Strategy	October 2021	Delyth Mathieson, (01772) 530700
Our Vision for Lancashire, Lancashire County Council	2019	
Equality Objectives, Lancashire County Council	April 2020	
Education Act: Education Act 2011 (legislation.gov.uk)	2011	
Academies Act: Academies Act 2010 (legislation.gov.uk)	2010	
Schools Causing Concern guidance Schools causing concern guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)	2020	
The Equality Act 2010	2010	
The Children and Families Act: Children and Families Act 2014 (legislation.gov.uk)	2014	

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A