

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Tuesday 22 February 2022

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable;
Delivering Better Services

Lancashire Schools - Attainment Priorities Overview

(Appendices 'A' and 'B' refer)

Contact for further information:

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Brief Summary

This report from the Education Improvement Service includes an overview of the context of education provision and the COVID-19 pandemic; steps taken to improve outcomes across Lancashire to date; proposed strategies to improve outcomes going forward including COVID catch up; Ofsted inspection outcomes in Lancashire schools and settings since the start of the 2021-22 school year and an overview of attainment and progress.

Recommendation

The Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the information as presented with a focus on Ofsted progress and outcomes and the priorities in the Education Strategy 2022-2025.

Detail

This report and Appendix 'A' cover both the current context and the steps taken across the period of the COVID-19 pandemic to improve outcomes in Lancashire schools and settings. Coronavirus has had a considerable impact across the county and information on COVID catch up funding and actions is also included at Appendix 'B'.

Ofsted resumed a full programme of school inspections from 1 September 2021, alongside revision to the framework for inspection which are also highlighted within the main report at Appendix 'A'.

As of 8 February 2022, 63 inspections had taken place since resumption. An outline of published outcomes to date are also included at Appendix 'A'.

No national statutory assessments and data collection took place in 2019-20 or 2020-21 for end of Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2, or Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). As a consequence, there is no published data for these cohorts.

The national data is provided by the National Consortium for Examination Results (NCER) from their data gathered from schools nationally. NCER is a not-for-profit Community Interest Company owned by all upper tier local authorities in England. However, this data set cannot be used for true comparative purposes.

Phonics data was collected nationally in Autumn 2020-2021 and 2021-22 and was a statutory requirement for Year 2 pupils. The administration of the phonics assessment in schools differed to that in previous years and was not subject to statutory monitoring.

The source of data for secondary school outcomes for 2020-21 is the Department for Education (DfE) release, which is collected directly from awarding bodies. This contains all secondary maintained schools, academies, and free schools.

It should be noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all summer exams were cancelled. GCSE grades awarded to pupils in August 2021 were through Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs). As a result, a variation in grades compared to previous years is to be expected due to the different process in place in the context of the pandemic.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated: Focus on Education Strategy priorities.

Risk management

Financial:

This report contains an overview of funding allocated to catch up funding. There are no financial implications at this point.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
NA		