

## Meeting of the Children, Families and Skills Scrutiny Committee (Wednesday 22 February 2023)

**Chair:** (County Councillor Andrea Kay)

### Part I (Open to Press and Public)

#### Quarter 1 Report Education Strategy

The report provided a summary of the work that took place during Quarter 1 of the Education Strategy which was agreed by Cabinet in 2022, including the work undertaken on the five Key priorities of the strategy; Increase take up and outcomes in early years settings; Further reduce exclusions; Address rising numbers of EHE (Elective Home Education); Improve outcomes for vulnerable children; and Increase number of children in EET (Employment, Education and Training).

**Resolved:** That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i. Further information be provided on Kooth and the evidence behind the use of Kooth and how successful it is.
- ii. Wider provision of data and statistics at a district level to be used to back up future reports.
- iii. A report on Virtual Learning Environments (VLEs) and Digital Learning provision across Lancashire (broken down per district) be provided at an appropriate time.
- iv. In the short term, reassurance be provided that referral units have enough provision and are not at full capacity.
- v. In the longer term, officers come back to talk about the audit tool and behaviour marking.
- vi. More information be provided on the start of school, nursery provision. Consideration be given to how children are dealing with isolation and other issues such as behaviour due to the effects of Covid, including any benchmarking data against other areas and sharing of best practice.
- vii. A written update report to be provided to the committee at the end of each Quarter and for officers to come back to the committee to provide a further update in 6 months' time.

## Education Attainment 2022

The committee considered a report that provided a summary of the attainment of children and young people in Lancashire during the 2022 summer exam and assessment season.

**Resolved:** That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i. Greater use of data such as breaking down figures to district and school level for future reports. Consideration be given to the difference in performance between high performing, average performing and low performing schools and what the percentage difference is.
- ii. Consideration be given to the breakdown of data between different cohorts of children, for example, girls, boys, children new to England and free school meals and comparison of this data across the county and districts.
- iii. Sharing of best practice between schools in different areas of Lancashire and approaching a similar authority to share best practice and see how things could be done better.
- iv. Officers to come back to the committee to provide a further update in 6 months' time or at an appropriate time.

## School Transport Mapping System

The committee considered a report that outlined the implementation of the county councils Home to School Transport Mapping System.

**Resolved:** That the following recommendations be shared with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills:

- i. All secondary schools to be advised that the new system will hopefully be available from September 2023, for the new school year.
- ii. Information on QRoutes be made available on the LCC website as soon as possible for parents so they can have access to the system, so that it is truly transparent.
- iii. Information to be shared on transport safety with all stakeholders including children, parents, schools and transport providers about the work of the Safer Travel Unit.
- iv. More information to be provided on route assessments and data to see how much work is being done on this or to see if this is just in response to appeals. Information from the meeting to be shared with the Cabinet Member for Highways in relation to the Children's Road Safety Task Group, which may need to be updated following some of the discussions today on safety.

