

<b>Decision maker</b>	Cabinet Member for Education
<b>Subject:</b>	Education Advisory Board
<b>Date of briefing:</b>	30 June 2016
<b>Report from:</b>	Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services
<b>Report by:</b>	Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children's Services - Education
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All
<b>Key decision (over £250k):</b>	No
<b>Full council decision:</b>	No

---

## 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Terms of Reference of the Education Advisory Board which is to replace the former Schools Standards and Improvement Group (SSIG).

## 2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member approves:
- The Terms of Reference for the Education Advisory Board as set out at [Appendix 1](#).

## 3. Background

- 3.1 Until recently, the School Standards and Improvement Group (SSIG) was the main mechanism by which elected members of the local authority were able to review and scrutinise educational performance. But the focus of the SSIG was to hold schools causing concern to account rather than local authority officers. The approach taken by the local authority was not supported by schools and those schools that found themselves being held to account reported the process to be unhelpful and was damaging the relationship between schools and the local authority
- 3.2 The purpose of the Education Advisory Board is to give elected members the opportunity to regularly review and scrutinise the performance of education in Portsmouth and the impact of the work to support the progression and achievement of our children and young people. The Education Advisory Board will be the key mechanism by which the elected members of the local

authority hold senior officers to account in terms of improving school standards.

3.3 A draft Terms of Reference is attached at Appendix 1.

#### **4. Equality impact assessment**

4.1 No impact assessment has been carried out as the proposals do not have any impact upon a particular equalities group.

#### **5. Legal comments**

5.1 The establishment of an Education Advisory Board assists the council in meeting its statutory responsibilities to promote high standards of education and to exercise its functions in respect of schools causing concern.

5.2 The general duty for local authorities to promote high standards of education and training is set out under sections 13, 13A and 14 of the Education Act 1996 which require local authorities to: ensure that efficient primary, secondary and further education is available to meet the needs of their population; ensure that their education functions are exercised with a view to promoting high standards, ensuring fair access to opportunity for education and training, and promoting the fulfilment of learning potential; and secure that sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education are available for their area.

5.3 Section 72 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 places a statutory duty on all local authorities in England, in exercising their functions in respect of schools causing concern as set out in Part 4 of the 2006 Act, to have regard to any guidance given from time to time by the Secretary of State. The current guidance for local authorities from the Department for Education is dated March 2016 "Schools causing concern: Intervening in failing, underperforming and coasting schools."

5.4 Under the terms of the council's constitution, the Cabinet Member has the appropriate powers to agree the recommendation proposed.

#### **6. Finance comments**

6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the recommendation in this report.

Signed by: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Detailed Action Plan to address issues identified by Ofsted in its inspection of the arrangements for school improvement in Portsmouth	Education
Achieving Excellence - Portsmouth City Council's education strategy for 2015/16	Education

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

.....  
Signed by: