

Meeting: Education Advisory Board

Subject: Portsmouth Education Partnership and School Improvement - update

Date: 2nd February 2017

Report from: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children's Services

Report by: Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director for Children's Services - Education

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the Portsmouth Education Partnership and the preparation of an Education Strategy for Portsmouth. It also provides details of the targeted work undertaken by the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance (on behalf of the Local Authority) to provide school improvement support to LA Maintained schools.

2. Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that members of the Education Advisory Board:

- (i) Note the progress that has been made to establish the Portsmouth Education Partnership and preparation of an Education Strategy for Portsmouth**
- (ii) Endorse the school improvement support that is being provided by the council for Priority 1 and 2 LA Maintained Schools**

3. Portsmouth Education Partnership

- 3.1 As previously reported to Members of the Education Advisory Board, work was undertaken in the Autumn to establish the Portsmouth Education Partnership.
- 3.2 The rationale for the PEP was in response to the changes that were taking place in education and in particular the move to a schools-led, self-improving system. This was reinforced by the Ofsted inspection last year of the council's arrangements for school improvement and continuing concerns relating to educational attainment and progress of children and young people in the city. Discussions were held last year with headteachers, governors and Multi Academy Trust (MAT) leaders, to explore their views and ideas around partnership working in the city. These discussions indicated two things:

- a. There was a strong appetite to develop new collective arrangements, led by schools, which provide a vehicle through which schools, academies, MATs, colleges, the university, teaching schools and wider stakeholders can take forward well founded joint projects and programmes and ensure that system leaders, including national, specialist and local leaders of education (NLEs, SLEs and LLEs) and national leaders of governance (NLGs), can be effectively deployed across the city. There is an anxiety that without some form of collective arrangements, academisation, whatever advantages it may bring, could lead to a fragmentation of the education system in Portsmouth. There is also a desire to maintain and build on historic strong relationships between schools and between schools and the local authority.
 - b. There was a developing consensus around a number of key priority areas where collective action could add value, over and above the efforts of individual schools, academies and MATs.
- 3.3 On 4th November 2016 the Portsmouth Education Partnership was launched following a consultation between 5th September and 21st October 2016. Embryonic structures were put in place including a shadow Strategic Board with an independent chair (Hilary Loder) and a shadow Operational Group to lead on school improvement and drive forward action on some early priorities agreed by the Strategic Board.
- 3.4 A number of sub groups and networks have been formed under the Partnership or in the case of the Behaviour and Attendance Group, moved to the Partnership.
- **Initial Teacher Training, Teacher Recruitment and Retention** (chaired by Steve Frampton, Principal of Portsmouth College)
 - **Inclusion** (chaired by Nys Hardingham, Headteacher of Admiral Lord Nelson School)
 - **Networks to support English, Modern Foreign Languages and Maths** subject leads (led by Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance and the Solent Maths Hub)
 - **Behaviour and Attendance Group** (chaired by Simon Graham, Headteacher of St Edmund's Catholic School)
- 3.5 During 2017 the Partnership will be developed and shaped further, to be informed by a half day workshop which is being held on the morning of 7th February at Highbury College.

Education Strategy for Portsmouth

- 3.6 An initial working draft of the Education Strategy for Portsmouth is attached at Appendix 1. This will be subject to further work over the next 4-6 weeks before a final version is circulated for consultation.
- 3.7 The strategy is based on six key themes with a set of priorities within each theme. These in turn are linked to a number of other strategies and action plans which are cross referenced where appropriate.
1. Planning, collaboration, challenge and support
 2. The best teachers, leadership and governance
 3. The right curriculum 2-19
 4. The right environment for learning: resilience and attendance
 5. Meeting the individual needs of children and young people
 6. Enlisting and contributing to the local community
- 3.8 The Strategic Board of the PEP was supportive of the approach and the key themes contained within the strategy, but with a recommendation that a final draft be prepared by the end of February, and the following comments be addressed:
- Under Theme 1 the role of the local authority, teaching school and MATs and their respective accountabilities be clarified in terms of the collaborative programme for school improvement. A meeting involving the LA, several MATs and the RSC will be taking place in February to clarify this.
 - The former Priority 3 strategy of the Children's Trust Plan '*securing sufficient and appropriate post-16 provision and increasing post-16 participation, achievement and progression*' to be incorporated into the strategy, particularly with regard to themes 2, 3, 5 and 6
 - Theme 6 to be expanded with a greater focus on '*preparation for work and life beyond school*' including a focus on employability, careers education, engagement with employers and the world of work

4. School Improvement Support update

- 4.1 Under the auspices of the Portsmouth Education Partnership (and through the shadow Operational Group), schools have been prioritised for school improvement support using the PEP Performance Dashboard.
- 4.2 All LA Maintained Schools have been sent the Dashboard information relating to their school with a priority rating of 1 to 3 (1 being the highest priority). This has dictated the amount of support schools will receive from the LA through the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance (TSA) following the decision by the LA to outsource school improvement to the Teaching School for 2016/17. Academies have also been sent the dashboard information, and the LA together with the Portsmouth TSA, are in discussion with MAT CEO/Leads about their improvement plans.

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Draft Education Strategy for Portsmouth
Appendices 1a- 1b: supporting data and graphs