

Meeting: Education Advisory Board

Subject: Portsmouth Education Partnership and School Improvement - update

Date: 3rd July 2017

Report from: Alison Jeffery, Director of Children, Families and Education

Report by: Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children, Families and 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**
- (ii) Endorse the draft Education Strategy for Portsmouth which is currently out for consultation**
- (iii) 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.

- 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. A half day workshop was held on the morning of 7th February at Highbury College. A summary of key outcomes from the workshop are given at Appendix 3.
- 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.
- 3.5 At the last PEP Strategic Board meeting it was agreed to continue with the current structures but to invite wider engagement and membership. A communication has been sent to school leaders and other partners to encourage this a copy of which is given at Appendix 4.
- 3.6 The structure is now as follows:
- **Strategic Board** (chaired by Hilary Loader)
 - **School Improvement Board** (chaired by Simon Graham, Headteacher of St Edmund's Catholic School)
 - **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)
 - **Behaviour and Attendance Group** (chaired by Simon Graham)
 - **Post-16 Forum**
 - **Subject Networks to support English, Maths, Science and Modern Foreign Languages** subject leads (led by Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance and the Solent Maths Hub)
- 3.7 In a relatively short space of time the PEP has already delivered some notable achievements. These include:
- Development of much **closer links and working relationships** between the Local Authority, Multi Academy Trusts, the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance and the Regional Schools Commissioner (including a new RSC-led protocol on involvement in the work of the PEP by academies and MATs)
 - Agreement of a draft **Portsmouth Education Strategy** for improving outcomes for children and young people, as a basis for consultation with schools and other stakeholders
 - Development of a **PEP website** (to be launched shortly) as a vehicle for improved communication

- Appointment of a full time **Partnership and Schools Inclusion Manager** (from 1st September 2017) who will drive forward the next phase of the PEP's development and the work of the Inclusion Group
- Development of a **collaborative school improvement programme** led by the School Improvement Board that has established clear and accountable arrangements to support sector-led school improvement and harness the expertise of system leaders in the city and beyond. This has included the development of a PEP Performance Dashboard and a School Support Directory
- As part of the school improvement programme, **a new approach to implementing the local authority's continuing school improvement responsibilities**, through which a larger number of LA maintained schools are being targeted for support, drawing on a wider range of national, regional and local resources
- A clear and coherent set of proposals for use of the national **Strategic School Improvement Fund** (bids for the first round to be submitted by 23 June 2017) which meet local priorities and has extensive sign up from both LA maintained schools and academies
- Establishment of **subject networks** in English, Maths, Modern Foreign Languages and Science
- Endorsement of a city wide strategy for promoting **whole school approaches to wellbeing and resilience**, developed in partnership with NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Education Strategy for Portsmouth 2017 - 2020

- 3.8 An initial working draft of the Education Strategy for Portsmouth was presented to the Education Advisory Board in February 2017. The strategy has now been updated following discussion the PEP Strategic Board and presentations to the Children's Trust Board, Portsmouth Children's Safeguarding Board and the Parent and Carer Board. The strategy has now gone out for consultation which is due to end on 28th July 2017. A copy of the final draft is given at [Appendix 1](#).
- 3.9 The strategy is based on ten strategic objectives with a set of priorities under each priority. These in turn are linked to a number of other strategies and action plans which are cross referenced where appropriate. The ten strategic objectives are as follows:
- SO1: Preparing children and young people for life and work beyond school
 - SO2: Ensuring that all children get the best possible start through effective early nurture at home and high quality early years education
 - SO3: Raising school standards through collaboration, challenge and support
 - SO4: Recruiting, retaining and growing the best teachers and leaders
 - SO5: Strengthening the curriculum across all key stages through a sustained investment in continuous professional development

- SO6: Promoting emotional health, wellbeing and resilience in education
- SO7: Collectively working together to ensure all pupils regularly attend school so they can realise their potential
- SO8: Meeting the needs of children and young people with special education needs and disabilities
- SO9: Ensuring young people have the best possible opportunities for post-16 education and higher education, including apprenticeships
- SO10: Investing in school buildings to create additional school places and provide high quality learning environments that meet the needs of all children

3.10 A final version of the strategy will be published on 1st September 2017.

4. School Improvement Support update

- 4.1 Under the auspices of the Portsmouth Education Partnership (and through the School Improvement Board), schools have been prioritised for school improvement support using the PEP Performance Dashboard.
- 4.2 In the Autumn, all LA Maintained Schools were 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, have had positive discussions with MAT CEO/Leads about their improvement plans and sharing strengths across the city.
- 4.3 Details of the support provided are given at [Appendix 2](#).

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Final draft of Education Strategy for Portsmouth

Appendix 1a: Education Data

Appendix 2: School Improvement Update: Portsmouth Education Partnership

Appendix 3: Summary of key outcomes from PEP workshop held on 7th February 2017

Appendix 4: Next steps: widening engagement and membership of the PEP