

**Meeting:** Education Advisory Board

**Subject:** Portsmouth Education Partnership and School Improvement Update

**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> February 2018

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

**Report by:** Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children, Families and Education – Education Service

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## **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1 This report provides a brief update on the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP), school improvement priorities for 2017/18 and targeted support for LA Maintained Schools in 2017/18.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Education Advisory Board note progress in terms of:**
- a. Development of the Portsmouth Education Partnership and publication of the Education Strategy 2017 - 2020, as set out in Section 3 of the report**
  - b. School improvement priorities for 2017/18 and the targeted support to LA Maintained schools in 2017/18.**

## **3. Portsmouth Education Partnership**

- 3.1 As previously reported to the Education Advisory Board, the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP) was established in November 2016; a schools-led Partnership bringing together Multi Academy Trusts, individual schools and academies, the Local Authority, Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance, colleges, early years settings and a range of key partners in order to collectively drive improved attainment and opportunity for all children and young people across the city.
- 3.2 The PEP has a Strategic Board (independent chair - Hilary Loder) which meets every term, underneath which are five sub groups, chaired by senior leaders in education, focussing on key priorities agreed by the Board:
- School Improvement Board (refer to paragraphs 4.2 - 4.4)

- Inclusion Group
- Initial Teacher Training / Teacher Recruitment and Retention Group
- Behaviour and Attendance Group
- Post-16 Forum

3.3 Since the Education Advisory Board last met on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, and following extensive consultation during the Autumn, the Education Strategy 2017 - 2020 has been published. A summary of the strategy is attached at [Appendix 1](#). This is a three year strategy which will be updated on annual basis. The full strategy can be accessed by going to the home page of the PEP website:  
[www.portsmoutheducationpartnership.co.uk](http://www.portsmoutheducationpartnership.co.uk)

3.4 At the same time the strategy was launched, the PEP website was also launched. The website contains a wealth of information and resources covering the 10 strategic objectives of the Education Strategy.

#### **4. School Improvement Support**

4.1 The council has a statutory duty to improve standards and ensure that the schools that fall under the council's responsibility (referred to as LA Maintained Schools) maintain high standards. Whilst many of the city's schools have joined Multi Academy Trusts (MATs), 50% of schools remain under the responsibility of the council.

4.2 As previously reported to the Education Advisory Board, targeted school improvement support for LA Maintained schools has been outsourced by the council to the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance, but under the auspices of the PEP and the School Improvement Board. 2017/18 is the second year of this arrangement.

4.3 The PEP School Improvement Board (SIB) is chaired by a Headteacher (Simon Graham, St Edmund's Catholic School) and comprises of:

- Headteacher representatives from across all school phases and from both LA Maintained schools and Multi Academy Trusts
- Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance
- Solent Maths Hub
- LA officers

4.4 The SIB oversees the main priorities for school improvement across the city and is developing a collaborative school improvement programme, sharing information about the support that is available (a school support directory has been developed) and co-ordinating applications for school improvement funding (e.g. Strategic School Improvement Fund).

### School improvement priorities 2017/18

- 4.5 The SIB has agreed the following key priorities for school improvement in 2017/18
- Improving outcomes for pupils on SEN Support in mainstream schools - major programme launched in January 2018 following successful R2 bid to the SSIF
  - Closing the gap for disadvantaged pupils - programme underway since September 2017 following successful R1 bid to the SSIF
  - Leadership - leadership hubs established through Ambition School Leadership (ASL) and Institute of Education
  - Phonics - to address the dip in performance at Key Stage 1 in 2017 (refer to the letter from Nick Gibb and the LA's response at [Appendix 2a and 2b](#))
  - School attendance (covered by the Behaviour and Attendance Group)
- 4.6 In addition to the above the following areas will also continue to be prioritised for support:
- Improve progress in core subjects at all Key Stages through subject training and networks as well as in school support from SLEs and other specialists with a particular focus on:
    - English
    - Maths
    - Modern Foreign Languages
    - Science / STEM
  - Support for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 1 moderation and assessment
  - Development of Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) and Recently Qualified Teachers (RQTs)

### Targeted school improvement support for LA Maintained Schools

- 4.5 As previously reported to the Education Advisory Board, in the early part of the Autumn term, all LA Maintained Schools were sent a copy of the PEP Performance Dashboard which related 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. Academies (and the respective MATs) were also sent the dashboard information, and the LA together with the Portsmouth TSA, have since had positive discussions with all of the MAT CEO/Leads about their improvement plans and sharing strengths across the city.
- 4.6 [Appendix 3](#) provides a summary of support and outcomes in 2016/17 and the latest position with regard to 2017/18. [Appendix 4](#) gives details of the prioritisation for both LA Maintained schools and academies.

## Strategic School Improvement Fund

- 4.7 As reported to the Education Advisory Board on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017, the PEP was successful in Round 1 of the national Strategic School Improvement Fund (SSIF) to provide funding (£200,000) for the Challenge the Gap programme which aims to improve outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. The programme has been running for five months and involves 18 schools in 3 clusters (both LA Maintained Schools and Academies).
- 4.8 Through the PEP a bid was also submitted by the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance for Round 2 of the SSIF, focusing on the PEP priority of improving outcomes for pupils on SEN Support in mainstream schools. It is pleasing to be able to report to the Board that this bid was also successful securing an additional £200,000 of support. This programme also involves 18 schools and is already underway, led by the Teaching School and Challenge Partners.
- 4.9 The two successful SSIF bids reinforce the strength and importance of the Portsmouth Education Partnership and in particular:
- Our capacity to deliver
  - Clarity about local need and priorities
  - Depth of collaboration in the city

## Annual Conversation with Ofsted

- 4.10 On 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the council met with Ofsted for its 'Annual Conversation' covering both Children's Social Care and Education. The education presentation given to Ofsted is attached at [Appendix 5](#) and the subsequent letter from Ofsted is attached at [Appendix 6](#). The presentation covered the school improvement journey we have been on (since the inspection by Ofsted in February 2016 of the Local Authority's arrangements for school improvement) and an update on performance across all key stages. It also covered school attendance and exclusions, post-16 participation and performance, implementation of Prevent and updates on Election Home Education and uptake of 2 year old funding. The letter from Ofsted provides a fair and a balanced summary of what was discussed.

### Appendices:

Appendices 1a and 1b: Portsmouth Education Strategy 2017 - 2020 and Performance Data

Appendices 2a and 2b: Letter from Nick Gibb (12<sup>th</sup> December 2017) and LA's response (12<sup>th</sup> January 2018) re: Phonics

Appendix 3: PEP School Improvement Update - February 2018

Appendix 4: Prioritisation of LA Maintained schools and academies

Appendix 5: Presentation to Ofsted on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Appendix 6: Letter from Ofsted (23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018)