

Meeting: Education Advisory Board

Subject: Education Strategy 2020 - 2023

Date: 14th October 2020

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

Report by: Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director, Education

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to share with Board Members details of the final draft of the new three year Portsmouth Education Strategy 2020 - 2023 as set out in Appendix 1.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that members of the Education Advisory Board endorse the final draft of the Portsmouth Education Strategy 2020 - 2023.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The 3 year education strategy replaces the previous strategy which ran from 2017 to 2020. The intention was to hold an extensive consultation during the summer term to inform a new three year strategy, but as a result of the pandemic this was cancelled.
- 3.2 The Covid-19 pandemic has created significant challenges for all schools. Contributing to the management of the pandemic and managing its impact on children will absorb much of the energy of schools over the coming months, possibly years. This is not a reason to hold back from the development of a clear collective strategy for education in the city, however. More than ever, the city needs strong education leadership with clear individual school and city wide priorities, around which all education leaders focus their efforts.
- 3.3 This three year strategy has therefore been developed building on the work of the previous strategy but also taking into account the extensive efforts that have been made by all partners to address the pandemic and its impact on education and education settings.
- 3.4 While the strategy sets the direction for the next three years, it outlines specific actions to be taken over the next 12 months so that there is complete clarity on our focus during this period.

- 3.5 The delivery of the strategy will be done under the auspices of the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP) recognising the part that all partners of the PEP will play in delivering the nine priorities that are set out in the strategy, and will be overseen by the PEP Strategic Board.
- 3.6 It has been agreed that the Portsmouth Multi Academy Trusts (MATs) Strategic Forum will discontinue and will merge with the PEP Strategic Board to create a single entity. This recognises that two thirds of schools in the city now belong to a MAT with further transfers planned this year, and builds on the strong collaborative working with MATs over the summer to address the challenges posed by the pandemic. MATs have worked with the council and partners to share their processes, practices and expertise, contributed to work in all areas and have also led and chaired Covid-19 workstreams. All are agreed that now is the time to formalise and extend this approach.
- 3.7 The PEP structures that were established three years ago will remain in place but will now be augmented by a number of other groups which have been established to address the challenges created by the pandemic. These structures are set out on page 4 of the strategy (Appendix 1).

4. Priorities

- 4.1 9 priorities have been identified, a summary of which is set out below. This includes details of the governance arrangements which will be responsible for their delivery. For each priority there are set of key actions that will be taken forward in the first year of the strategy 2020/21. The majority of these are either underway or in planning.

No	Priority	Governance
1.	Strong leadership and ambition at all levels within individual schools to improve effectiveness and outcomes for children and young people	School Leadership and Effectiveness Board
2.	Implement a digital learning strategy for the city that supports learning both at school and at home	Digital Learning / Digital Pioneers Group
3.	Improve pupil outcomes in literacy (reading, writing and oral) with a focus on early language development	Early Language and Literacy Development Group
4.	Recruit, retain and grow the best teachers and leaders	ITT, Teacher Recruitment and Retention Group
5.	Ensure all schools have access to clear and up to date infection control and health & safety information and are able to respond appropriately to local Covid-19 outbreaks	Infection Control and Health & Safety Group
6.	Ensure all education settings have robust safeguarding policies, processes and culture in place	Portsmouth Safeguarding Children's Partnership

7.	Promote emotional health, wellbeing and resilience in education	Children's Emotional Health & Wellbeing Group
8.	Ensure all pupils regularly attend school	Behaviour and Attendance Group (BAG)
9.	Invest in school buildings to create additional school places, focusing on secondary, even more inclusive mainstream schools and a continuum of specialist provision for children with additional needs	School Sufficiency Board

5. Next steps

- 5.1 The final draft of the strategy has been sent out to all members of the PEP with a deadline of Friday 16th October for any final comments and feedback. There may therefore be some late changes. The strategy will be published the following week.
- 5.2 Governance arrangements are in place for all the priorities with the exception of priority 3 which will be established before half term.

Appendix 1: Portsmouth Education Strategy 2020 - 2023