

## EDUCATION, CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE SCRUTINY PANEL

Minutes of the meeting of the Education, Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel held in the Executive Meeting Room, Guildhall on Wednesday, 22 March 2023 at 5.00 pm

### Present

Councillor Ryan Brent (in the Chair)

Councillors Leo Madden  
Dave Ashmore  
John Smith  
Judith Smyth

Helen Reeder, Teachers Liaison Panel  
Claire Haque, Parent Governor

#### 20. Apologies (AI 1)

There were no apologies for absence.

#### 21. Declarations of interests (AI 2)

Councillor Brent declared a personal interest in that he is employed by the City of Portsmouth College.

#### 22. Minutes of previous meeting (AI 3)

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.**

#### 23. Review into school attendance with a focus on transitional years 6-7 (AI 4)

Mike Stoneman, Deputy Director of Children's Services and Education gave a brief summary of the budget and policy framework implications of the recommendations which had been circulated to the panel earlier that day.

The Panel were happy with all the recommendations and noted the resource implications of these. With regard to recommendation 4, it was felt that this needed to be amended slightly to strengthen the recommendation. After a brief discussion it was agreed to amend this to:

To **at least double** the number of LA Link Co-ordinators including a focus on supporting year 6 to 7 transition.

Mr Stoneman advised that he would provide a figure in the resource implications box for this.

With regard to recommendation 8 it was pointed out that school governors should be monitoring attendance in all years, not just 6 and 7 so it was agreed to amend the recommendation to:

That the local authority and headteachers encourage school governors to scrutinise the transitional process in their schools and closely monitor attendance **particularly** for years 6 and 7.

Mr Stoneman added that the authority rigorously monitor and track attendance, suspensions, reduced timetables and numbers of children who are electively home educated and a weekly report is shared with all schools. The DfE will also be monitoring this as attendance is one of the priorities under the Priority Education Investment Area. It was agreed that a short note would be included at the start of the report to say that attendance will be tracked and monitored and outcomes will be reported.

It was also agreed to include in the report that the recommendations of the panel are compatible with existing policies including the PEP city wide strategy to improve attendance and reduce exclusions. The Chair said he would include this in the Chair's preface.

The panel gave their thanks to the Chair and all officers and witnesses involved in the review.

**RESOLVED that the panel's report ' A review into school attendance with a focus on transitional years 6-7' be signed off subject to the above minor amendments, and be submitted to Cabinet in June 2023.**

The meeting concluded at 5.30 pm.

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Councillor Ryan Brent  
Chair