

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

12 MARCH 2015

**REPORT OF CHILDREN &
YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT
COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Children & Young People – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Ann McCoy

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY

1. Summary

The attached report presents the Children & Young People Select Committee findings following the Scrutiny Review of transition from Primary to Secondary.

2. Recommendations

1. That secondary and primary colleagues pay due cognisance to each other's expertise through sharing practice and planning, classroom visits and collaborative training:
2. That all schools/ Academies be encouraged to sign up to a Transition Guarantee to seek to ensure:
 - every secondary school to attend at least one moderation of primary work in the summer term
 - Cross phase items are considered at least three times at Collaborative Network meetings per year
 - all schools to use the Sprint Tracker to record pupil attainment and coverage of the curriculum in maths, reading, writing and Science and this to be passed to schools at point of transition
 - all schools to adhere to the 'Moving Forward' transition package of protocols and pro-formas
 - a consistent approach to scoring attainment to be agreed
 - all primary schools to be informed of the KS4 outcomes for their pupils
 - agreed dates for a Borough wide transition week
 - the implementation of a transition project for all pupils.
3. That implementation of the Transition Guarantee is overseen through the existing challenge, monitoring and support structures of the Local Authority; challenge to schools and academies for the extent of their implementation of the Transition Guarantee be through the School Improvement Framework (as a trigger in the Challenge and Support Criteria); monitoring will occur using the School Improvement Adviser programme; support will be offered through the Campus Stockton Teaching Alliance.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

The report presents the findings of the scrutiny review that took place as part of the agreed work programme for 2014/15.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code).

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RECOMMENDATION

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DETAIL

1. The overall aim of the review is to ensure that transition arrangements from primary to secondary school are effective enough to ensure that students maintain their academic momentum into Year 7 and therefore make more progress across Key Stage 3 and 4 so that outcomes at the end of Key Stage 4 improve.
2. There is a growing body of research which associates the transition of pupils from one phase to another with underachievement. Galton et al (1999) suggest that two in every five pupils fail to make expected progress in the year after moving to secondary school supporting the hypothesis that there is an academic dip post transition. In 2013, Stockton progression rates for primary pupils were in line with or exceeding national averages. For secondary aged pupils, progression rates were well below national averages.
3. Committee Members have visited the following Stockton schools to speak with staff and pupils:
 - Egglecliffe School
 - Junction Farm Primary School
 - Our Lady and St Bede RC Academy
 - St Cuthbert's RC Voluntary Aided Primary School

Discussion with the full Select Committee also took place with Conyers School and Wolviston Primary School staff and pupils at the Select Committee meeting on 14 January 2015.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. None

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5. None

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. This review is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

7. The following Council Plan themes/objectives are relevant:
 - Narrow the educational attainment gap.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

8. This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment because it is making no major change to any policy or service provision.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

9. The proposals in this report have been developed in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

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Education related? Yes

Background Papers None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

The proposals as a whole are not ward specific.

Property None