

Children and Young People Select Committee
Scrutiny Review of Transition from Primary to Secondary
Outline Scope

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Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?

SBC Council Plan 2014 – Children and Young People – Objective – Narrow the educational attainment gap.

What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?

A national Ofsted survey report identified that transfer arrangements in over a quarter of the schools visited were weak and that these weaknesses resulted in, amongst other things, students being in groups where teaching did not challenge them.

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.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

- Do pupils do less well at secondary schools than their predictions on leaving primary school?
- Do pupils make adequate progress on standardised tests in English, Mathematics and reading by the end of their first year in secondary school?
- Does behaviour deteriorate in the early years of secondary school?
- Do schools talk to each other about the information they need to transfer?
- How should primary schools prepare pupils?
- How should secondary schools support pupils in their first year?
- What induction arrangements are in place to ensure pupils are supported emotionally and

<p>socially for secondary school?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How best can we create an environment for dialogue between primary and secondary schools? • Is there a case for earlier liaison with primary schools (prior to Year 6) • What are the benefits of different approaches such as summer school, pupil mentors and fast track schemes? • What is good practice and where is it in the Borough? • 	
<p>Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?</p> <p>Schools Academies Governing Bodies</p>	
<p>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</p> <p>Six months</p> <p>Agree Scope and Project Plan – 15 October Evidence Gathering and Site Visits – October 2014 – January 2015 Agree Recommendations – 18 February 2015 Agree Final Report – Feb 2015 TBA Report to Cabinet – 12 March 2015</p>	
<p>What information do we need?</p> <p>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School data on levels of progress and outcomes • Transition Strategy • Tracking Tools • Initiatives of best practice 	
<p>Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)</p> <p>Dianne McConnell Chief Adviser, SBC</p> <p>Views of Head Teachers and other teaching staff</p> <p>Feedback from Year 7 pupils on their experience of transition</p>	<p>What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?</p> <p>Background and Context Setting Transition Strategy Performance Data</p>

Clips from “Our School” filmed at Conyers and feedback from Year 8 pupils who participated

How will this information be gathered? (eg. Financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)

Background and Context Setting at a Select Committee Meeting

Visits to:

Primary School

Secondary School

Collaborative Network Meeting

Campus Stockton Teaching Alliance Meeting

Roundtable discussion with Heads and Year 7 Pupils at January Meeting

How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?

See above.

How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?

The review will seek where possible to ensure that children with protected characteristics are not disadvantaged by transition arrangements.

How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

The review will contribute to the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy key priority: ‘giving every child the best start in life’ and other related objectives set out in the Strategy Delivery Plan.

The review will contribute to the following health and wellbeing priorities:

- Improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people
- Will meet the Child Poverty agenda
- Have more training and employment opportunities

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

The review could lead to greater understanding of transition arrangements and how secondary schools should prepare primary schools pupils for the transition and support them in their first year at secondary school and through into the secondary phase so outcomes at secondary improve.

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	September 2014	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	7 October 2014	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee Context Setting	15 October 2014	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	N/A		Chair, Link Officer, Press Officer Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	Feedback from site visits Round table discussion with Teaching School Alliance, Head Teachers and Students	14 January 2015	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	18 February 2015	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	February 2015	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	24 March 2015	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	26 February 2015	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Corporate Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	3 March 2015	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	12 March 2015	Cabinet/ Approving Body