

Children and Young People Select Committee
Review of the Role of Council in Education
Outline Scope

Scrutiny Chair (Project Director): Cllr Carol Clark	Contact details:
Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager): Peter Mennear	Contact details:
Departmental Link Officer: Martin Gray / Diane McConnell	Contact details:
Finance Link Officer: TBC	Contact details:
Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?	
<p>Council Plan 2017-20 Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve education and learning outcomes for all children and young people <p>Key activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure sufficient school places in good or better schools • Work to ensure all schools/academies in Stockton are good or better • Review the model for supporting school improvement • Develop options for alternative provision and curriculum delivery for 14-19 year olds at risk of disengagement 	
What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?	
<p>The role of the local authority in education is summarised by the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) strategic convener of the system (eg. leadership and partnership) b) championing the vulnerable (eg. support for SEN) c) children in school (eg. school place planning) d) enabling a self-improving system (eg. support and challenge performance of local schools) <p>Stockton Council has placed a continuing priority on improving educational outcomes, the concept of Campus Stockton, and commitment to 'all Stockton children'.</p> <p>Within this context, the Council must operate within a rapidly changing policy landscape, the increasing academisation of schools, and the loss of the Education Support Grant during 2017-18.</p> <p>To face these challenges the Council is undertaking a strategic review of education, focussing</p>	

on specific service reviews, development of traded services, and sourcing external funding.

A report was considered at Cabinet in October, and a further update on progress is due in January 2018. It is proposed that the Committee assesses progress and provides further challenge to this ongoing review.

Following an overview of the main issues, it is proposed that the review focusses on the Council's role in promoting inclusion and supporting vulnerable pupils, with a focus on those at risk of exclusion.

The numbers of pupils being excluded has recently increased, as has the number of children receiving home education. The long term impacts of exclusion (for example) can affect a range of outcomes for a child. Exclusion is particularly an issue in Key Stage 4 (age 14-16).

This also links to the development of an alternative curriculum, and specialist provision.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

What are the main roles of the local authority in relation to education and what are the main influences upon its work?

And then to focus on the following:

Championing the needs of the vulnerable and promoting inclusion

What is the council's role regarding inclusion, including reducing exclusions, managed moves and fair access?

What is the relationship and roles in relation to schools and academies in this regard?

What are the relationships with related services including early help and educational psychology, and health provision?

How are these support services funded and what are the options for the future?

How does the Council work with the Regional Schools Commissioner in respect of academy improvement and oversight, particularly in respect of these issues?

Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?

Cabinet

Expected duration of review and key milestones:

5 months, reporting to Cabinet in April

What information do we need?

Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):

- Education Excellence Everywhere (White Paper, March 2016)

- Strategic Review Of Education: Update Report (Cabinet, Oct 2017)

New information:

- Overview of role of the Council and its partners
- Key influences and opportunities
- Background information on local and national attainment / outcomes for pupils / more vulnerable pupils.

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)

What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?

Director of Children's Services

Overview of role and responsibilities of schools,

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

Executive Member view on current/future role

Schools and SEN Service

Role and key issues in relation to inclusion and supporting vulnerable pupils

Regional Schools Commissioner

Role, liaison with Councils, improvement policy and practices

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

Committee meetings

Committee visits to relevant meetings

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

As above.

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

The Equality Act 2010 protects everyone from discrimination on grounds of nine Protected Characteristics, including Disability.

The Council is under a duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The review will contribute towards meeting the Council's requirements under this Duty, particularly in relation to the outcomes for more vulnerable children, and their opportunities as they move into adulthood.

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

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-18 contains the following relevant policy objective:

- Give every child the best start in life
- Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives

The Council continues to play a key role in the planning and delivery of a range of education services, and the review will support the aims of the strategy.

The review will also consider services to the more vulnerable.

Exclusion can have a range of negative impacts on the life chances of the affected children. This includes poor educational attainment and involvement with the criminal justice system.

Exclusions may also be symptomatic of unmet needs.

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

- clarity in understanding the Council's role and how it can continue to shape and have an influence in local education
- ensure clarity about the role and options particularly in relation to supporting the vulnerable
- to provide challenge to partners to ensure these is a common approach to inclusion issues

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering		Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review		Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee Overview of Council Role	1 November	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Determine whether Communications Plan needed		Link Officer, Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	TBC	6 December 24 January 2018 14 February 14 March	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	tbc	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report		Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations		Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	tbc	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report		Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	tbc	Cabinet/ Approving Body

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