

Children and Young People Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 8 May 2012

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

EIT Review of School Effectiveness

The Committee met on 25 April to approve the final report on the EIT review of School Effectiveness. The report includes the following broad recommendations:

- 1) To align and integrate teams to ensure efficient and effective service delivery and support for schools
- 2) To review business models for commissioning and buy back services in the context of Campus Stockton Prospectus
- 3) Put in place a modernised 'whole system' school improvement model, rooted in collaboration with Stockton schools and key partners and stakeholders

The Committee's recommendations reflect a desire to:

- Develop improved, fit for purpose structures, making them more efficient, effective and school focused
- Fully utilise the Workforce Development staff resource and strengthen the focus on Governor Development
- Grow the costed and brokered capacity of the service, building on the success of the Campus Stockton model
- Strengthen business modelling to enable services to compete in the market place through cost effective business planning and commissioning
- Meet the needs of schools and address any gaps in strategic priorities, for example, support for safeguarding in schools, which has consistently been highlighted by head teachers
- Help schools to support each other in a structured partnership model that is designed with openness to cost recovery and is in line with emerging Government policy

The recommendations will achieve an annual saving of £200,000 and a one off saving of £0.5m.

This review is scheduled to report to Cabinet on 17 May.

Overview

The annual overview of services within the Committee's remit was also presented to Members on 25 April. Discussion took place, in particular, around the following issues:

- Pressures on social care
- Highest levels of children in care
- Adoption performance – new national scorecards
- Sector led improvement and challenge
- Use of Building assets following EIT reviews
- School places, planning and provision
- Academies and Free Schools

Members asked for a further briefing to be held on the planning of school places.