

## APPENDIX 1

### PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

<b>SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE</b>	
<b>Review:</b>	<b>Scrutiny Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment</b>
<b>Recommendation Lead:</b>	<b>Mandie Rowlands</b>

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

<b>Recommendation 3:</b>	Improve Communication – design, deliver and support better communication with parents/carers
Responsibility	Mandie Rowlands
Date:	Autumn 2025
Agreed Action:	<p><b>Research:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To understand the effectiveness of communication between education establishments and parents/carers and pupils if applicable                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Choose a range of primary, secondary and special to determine the communication strategies, frequency and content (one month)</li> <li>○ To gather feedback from schools and/or parents to look for the best methods</li> </ul> </li> <li>• To prepare an overview document to share the best strategies and practice</li> <li>• To meet with a group of Headteachers to determine the feasibility of sending key messages through one portal and to look at what the common messages, notices, opportunities for parents/carers in Stockton-on-Tees could be</li> <li>• To undertake an options appraisal to identify if systems can ‘communicate’ with each other</li> <li>• Gather feedback from a range of stakeholders, schools, frontline services in SBC regarding types of communication with parents/carers</li> <li>• Determine what training, support and guidance is needed and develop a customer service training package to be offer to a range of stakeholders</li> </ul> <p><b>Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/carer survey – through various methods</li> <li>• School survey through TASS</li> <li>• Use various forums including PDN’s, PIF, Attendance Network meetings to raise awareness of good communication</li> </ul> <p><b>Events:</b></p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host a 'who can help' event for schools to attend and understand which services can support education establishments</li> <li>• Attend other events to ensure communication remains on the agenda for improving relationships with parents/carers</li> </ul>
Agreed Success Measure:	<p><b>Research:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Schools' communication with parents/carers is effective</li> <li>• Parents/carers will communicate with schools effectively through preferred method</li> <li>• Agreed strategy to look at effective portal use</li> <li>• Parents/carers will receive key messages, hints and tips through one platform</li> <li>• Preferred method of communication will be identified and implemented</li> <li>• Refreshed customer service training with clear pathway on who should complete the differing levels of training</li> </ul> <p><b>Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Professionals will feel informed about who can support school</li> <li>• Parent/carers will see communication with school improved</li> </ul>
Evidence of Progress: (March 2026)	<p>2 primary and 1 secondary have been identified to participate in a test and learn phase</p> <p>Meeting held with internal colleagues to produce a survey</p> <p>Discussions held with HDFT colleagues to look at how the Childrens Health Service App – Growing Healthy can be utilised for key parenting messages</p> <p>Starting Reception Booklet distributed with 'Application for primary school' email</p> <p>Supporting Schools Booklet produced and distributed</p>
Assessment of Progress: (include explanation if required) (March 2026)	<p>2 – On track</p> <p>Mapping exercise to establish all methods of communication</p> <p>Survey to parents/carers</p> <p>Survey to children/young people</p> <p>Meetings held</p>
Evidence of Impact: (March 2026)	<p>Work is in early stages but as part of the ongoing Team Around the School Service (TASS) work, work is ongoing to improve communication with parents/carers and communities.</p> <p>How do we know good communication works – Pop up Prom events – information is shared via schools and we have distributed over 60 outfits to date.</p>

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<b>Recommendation 8:</b>	Strengthen and extend the enrichment offer that matches pupils' needs and interests
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Date:	January 2026
Agreed Action:	<p><b>Research:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete mapping exercise on existing curriculum enrichment opportunities that are offered within and beyond the school day, gathering information through existing meeting, networks and events.</li> <li>• Mapping exercise on what 'extended' activities education settings offer before and after school and within the school holidays</li> <li>• From activities 1 and 2 generate an overview of the enrichment activities gathered from the research to determine             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Gaps against student needs</li> <li>2. Opportunities missed from local employers</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Opportunities from health care sector, leisure and childcare etc</li> <li>• Determine next steps to develop further opportunities with local industries, with a particular focus on – health care sector, leisure and childcare</li> <li>• Complete a baseline for the minimum standards of healthy schools, across SBC and potential next steps</li> <li>• Complete a baseline for the minimum standards of HAF Programme, across SBC and potential next steps</li> </ul> <p><b>Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refresh pupil survey to establish 'wants', 'interests' and 'needs' within the curriculum</li> <li>• Refresh parent/carer survey to understand what would interest their children /young people</li> <li>• Invite to tender for potential providers to become part of an activity framework for education establishments to purchase additional activities</li> </ul> <p><b>Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provider taster event to create activity framework</li> <li>• Competition</li> <li>• Work experience taster event to introduce young people into sectors with most demand</li> </ul>
Agreed Success Measure:	<p><b>Research:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children and young people will shape the extended offer within the school day, before and after school and within the school holidays.</li> <li>• Children and young people will feel they have made the necessary changes, and this will be evident through the healthy school programme</li> </ul>
Evidence of Progress: (March 2026)	<p>3 of 13 websites have been reviewed and mapping has started            Youth Guarantee Trailblazer has offered insights            Wraparound funding has provided schools with capital funding that improves school facilities for wraparound care</p>

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	<p>Excellence for all working group within the post-16 partnership                  Something new for Youth event held 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026                  Meeting held to discuss youth worker qualification for post 16 workforce                  Healthy School Programme is currently under review, will align with new Ofsted framework and Y6, Y8 and Y10 surveys                  Be Kind to Your Mind Programme has been refreshed for Summer 26</p>
<p>Assessment of Progress:                  (include explanation if required)                  (March 2026)</p>	<p>2 - On track</p> <p>Ongoing Conversations                  Post-16 partnership meetings                  HAF Steering Group                  Wraparound Conference planned (March 26)</p>
<p>Evidence of Impact:                  (March 2026)</p>	<p>Impact progress is limited as this area is continuously evolving.                  Recruitment is underway for a Transitions Lead who will work across the education system, capturing pupil voice, working with schools around Work Experience and all aspects of transitions</p>

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<b>Recommendation 9:</b>	Celebrating achievement and recognition of children who participate through local and national awards
Responsibility	Mandie Rowlands
Date:	March 2026
Agreed Action:	<p><b>Research:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete mapping exercise of all SBC achievement events for children and young people that are offered within and beyond the school day, gathering information through existing meeting, networks and events</li> <li>• Complete a mapping exercise of all partner agencies achievement events for young people that take place outside of the school day and through the holiday periods</li> <li>• Obtain an overview of a sample of schools/trusts of achievement events for young people that are offered within and beyond the school day, gathering information through existing meeting, networks and events.</li> <li>• Following an analysis of activities 1 2 and 3, engage with a range of stakeholders to identify further strategies and events that will recognise and celebrate the achievement of our young people</li> </ul> <p><b>Communication</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create pupil survey to establish ‘wants’, ‘interests’ and ‘needs’ around achievements and future events</li> <li>• Create parent/carer survey to understand what would interest their children /young people when looking at achievement and recognition</li> </ul> <p><b>Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holidays Are Fun Programme achievement event for providers and participants</li> <li>• Scope out the local, regional and national competitions that would be available to children and young people in various settings</li> <li>• Pride of Stockton-on-Tees Awards event to bring together a range of children that are champions for local charities, organisations and services within the communities</li> </ul>
Agreed Success Measure:	<p><b>Research:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To create a document that evidences a comprehensive understanding of all the celebration events available to all, that is inclusive and diverse.</li> <li>• To create a timetable of all events to understand clashes, key times of the year and gaps</li> <li>• Create document with proposals for additional events to celebrate Stockton-on-Tees children and young people</li> </ul> <p><b>Events:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children would co-construct the event and be the hosts and presenters.</li> </ul>

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Evidence of Progress: (March 2026)	<p>Paper presented to SMT December 2025</p> <p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>To seek approval for a phased approach to strengthen recognition of children and young people (CYP) across Stockton-on-Tees through new award categories, increased regional/national nominations, a dedicated award ceremony or section within the established local award ceremony, and opportunities for engagement such as the re-introduction of BMBF Takeover Day.</p>
Assessment of Progress: (include explanation if required) (March 2026)	<p>2 - On track</p> <p>SMT was asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the phased approach, beginning with the introduction of a Mayor’s Certificate of Achievement as the initial step</li> <li>• Deliberate a dedicated annual ‘Pride of Stockton-on-Tees’ ceremony for children and young people, considering the established award events</li> <li>• Alternatively support the development of new CYP categories within the established award events, including Community Stars, Mayor’s Civic Awards and Catalyst Conference and Awards</li> <li>• Endorse plans to increase nominations for regional and national awards</li> <li>• Agree to explore the reintroduction of the BMBF Takeover Day in the next academic year</li> </ul> <p>Actions / next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map existing activity across the council (events, awards etc) <a href="#">@Mandie Rowlands</a></li> <li>• Civic Award – Mandie to explore options with <a href="#">@Jonathan Nertney</a></li> <li>• Links with Star / Local Pride Awards – to develop with <a href="#">@Jane Edmends</a> team</li> <li>• Support applications for more Regional / National Awards (all to be co-ordinated via <a href="#">@Mandie Rowlands</a>)</li> <li>• Explore options for BMBF takeover day with HR <a href="#">@Leanne Dudhill</a></li> </ul>
Evidence of Impact: (March 2026)	<p>Work is ongoing with colleagues to progress next steps</p> <p>Further work is to include Youth United Stockton Alliance</p> <p>HAF funding has been confirmed for 3 years</p> <p>Work on portal has been progress – although paused whilst the IFD is established</p>

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<b>Assessment of Progress Gradings:</b>	<b>1</b> Fully Achieved	<b>2</b> On-Track	<b>3</b> Slipped	<b>4</b> Not Achieved
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