

APPENDIX 1

PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of Narrowing the Gap in Educational Attainment

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

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.

Recommendation 11:	Strengthen our approach to career pathways for children, young people and their parents
Responsibility	Mandie Rowlands
Date:	July 2026
Agreed Action:	Research: • Understand the current picture: - Develop partnerships to better share the current post-16 provision with schools, enabling and informing information and guidance on career pathways for schools and their students - Determine whether this meets the needs of the school and the young people to ensure they have the right knowledge, information and how to access this - Review the current model of school-based careers fayre's/events to make recommendations to enhance this, that will support good IAG for young people around progression opportunities (employment including apprenticeships, training and further/higher education) • Develop an inclusive and broad offer from SBC that supports the robust provision of careers education in all schools • Develop a strategy for schools to work with SBC departments to identify opportunities for school-based curriculum to be enhanced with workplace experience and knowledge • Develop a Summer School strategy to enhance the skills, knowledge and experience of our young people through a range of activities such as enterprise weeks, business weeks Communication 1. Stockton Born and Bred initiative, highlighting pathways to success that can be achieved locally 2. Stockton's post-16 providers to form a partnership and share good practice, communications and marketing 3. Stockton's career leads to strengthen the network meetings, taking the learning back to schools and colleagues within other secondary schools Events: 1. Establish and strengthen the Stockton Careers Network

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	2. Development and delivery of either one Careers event or a Careers Roadshow which has capacity to be delivered across all schools and colleges
Agreed Success Measure:	Research: - Established Stockton Careers Network: sessions held with school and college Careers Lead staff exploring NEET performance and the employment / industrial development locally - Sessions to be held with Careers Leads from schools and colleges to establish priorities for careers education in their establishments and how SBC can help (led jointly by Careers and Economic Development) - To further develop (through this Careers Network) feedback loops with schools and colleges about the careers and progression experience of young people, using young person voice captured through Y11 and Y12 surveys of students - Through the Careers Network we will develop a shared resource “bank” of activities, experiences (including how to meet the “two weeks work experience” duty), lesson plans / ideas / group work resources, repository of good practice and shared contacts / networks which will bring together the excellent work already being done, while giving individual schools, colleges and staff help and support in meeting the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks - To compile a list of services and teams who can accommodate and want to host work placements for KS4 and KS5 students - To communicate this with external partners – schools and colleges but also AP providers, special schools, PRU, EHE - To develop a resource which assists teams in providing a high impact work placement – project based activity, inspiration, skill identification and development, mentoring; in addition to traditional work shadowing - Accrue and share valuable activities which already exist and are accessible for Stockton young people - Build a local offer which can be accessed in-person, with brings inspiration and information to strengthen the local offer of work, training and education post-16 and post-18 Communication: 10 interviews / interactions filmed and shared through appropriate media, with people who are from Stockton and gone on to achieve success in their chosen field - Students enrolling at Stockton colleges increases from 2024 baseline, evidencing they have been inspired by the local offer - Careers Lead Network meetings are attended by all secondary schools and working towards a single action plan Events: - At least 6 meetings attended by 80% of our secondary schools and colleges - Large event to be attended by at least 500 young people and parents/carers - Roadshow delivered in at least three secondary schools

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Evidence of Progress: (October 2026)	Post 16 Partnership established December 2024 Careers Network established Spring 2025 but now revised to a Work Experience Offer New Work Experience Offer Network Group is in development – mapping exercise underway NEET Performance Clinic established within Careers Service (multi-agency) Year 12 surveys undertaken in September 2025 (SSFC) 4 working groups set up: ➤ Communication and Marketing ➤ Transitions into Post 16 ➤ Excellence for All ➤ Pathways and EET (formally Careers Network) Early development of a Careers portal Transport Task & Finish Group established Skills for Success Holidays Are Fun – taster sessions with SRC
Assessment of Progress: (include explanation if required) (October 2026)	2 – On-track
Evidence of Impact: (October 2026)	Strengthened relationships across all post-16 providers New web page on SBC website Post-16 education in Stockton-on-Tees Collaborative brochure Guide to post-16 education Improved enrolments across all post-16 provision in Stockton-on Tees (2026-27) Improved conversion rates across all post-16 provision in Stockton-on-Tees (2026-27) A level results – provisional data reports show we are above national and second highest in TV NEET was 7.1% currently 5% 10 digital ambassadors recruited to co-create social media content

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Recommendation 15:	Embed and extend pastoral support in schools targeted to need
Responsibility	Mandie Rowlands
Date:	April 2026
Agreed Action:	Research: - Collect a range of school pastoral support structures that schools have in place that shows the tiered approach of who can help - Meet with a range of Senior Leaders to discuss: a. the range of needs within their schools b. how their pastoral structures support the needs c. their view of any gaps in both school and LA - Gather the views of HT of LA support services that meet the needs of young people and can be infused to support pastoral structures - Develop an appraisal document of different models of pastoral structures that have been designed to support specific needs within the school - Circulate the Supporting Services booklet, produced by the Local Authority for feedback. - Refresh and recirculate the Supporting Services booklet - Develop a toolkit that identifies pupils at Risk of Disengagement Indicator (RODI) Communication - Email to schools request latest structure - Meeting request sent out inviting school leads to attend - Appraisal paper shared with school leads and Head Teachers Events: - Meeting held to gather information as set out in Research point 2 - Meeting held to share information gathered in appraisal paper
Agreed Success Measure:	Research: - Will receive 20 primary and 10 secondary school structures - Meeting will be attended by at least 60% senior leaders from schools - Meeting will be attended by at least 60% senior leaders from schools - This will evidence the diverse range of pastoral support available in Stockton schools' - Schools will have a directory of services to direct staff to the right service for the right support - Schools would identify and RAG pupils that need some additional support to improve attainment Communication: 75% response to email request Events: - At least 60% of invitees attend meeting.

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Evidence of Progress: (October 2026)	Meetings held with Head Teachers ABC Framework created Risk Indicator matrix developed All schools RAG rated Levels of support identified and resource allocated School Support Booklet developed and distributed Community resources introduced to schools e.g. Family HUBS
Assessment of Progress: (include explanation if required) (October 2026)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact: (October 2026)	Schools are using the ABC Framework Two red rated schools have moved to amber One amber rated school has moved to green School Support Advisers attend Inclusion meetings to discuss vulnerable pupils Increased uptake in group work Feedback from schools is positive Interventions are identified and implemented earlier

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