

Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

7 December 2016

Time 6.00 pm **Public Meeting?** YES **Type of meeting** Scrutiny
Venue Committee Room 3 - 3rd Floor - Civic Centre

Membership

Chair Cllr Peter O'Neill (Lab)
Vice-chair Cllr Udey Singh

Labour

Cllr Harbans Bagri
Cllr Greg Brackenridge
Cllr Julie Hodgkiss
Cllr Rupinderjit Kaur
Cllr Welcome Koussoukama
Cllr Louise Miles
Cllr Lynne Moran
Cllr Mak Singh
Cllr Daniel Warren

Conservative

Cllr Christopher Haynes

Quorum for this meeting is three Councillors.

Information for the Public

If you have any queries about this meeting, please contact the democratic support team:

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Tel/Email Tel: 01902 551251 or earl.piggott-smith@wolverhampton.gov.uk
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Wolverhampton WV1 1RL

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Some items are discussed in private because of their confidential or commercial nature. These reports are not available to the public.

Agenda

Part 1 – items open to the press and public

Item No. *Title*

MEETING BUSINESS ITEMS

- 1 **Apologies**
- 2 **Declarations of interest**
- 3 **Minutes of the previous meeting (5 October 2016)** (Pages 5 - 12)
[To approve the minutes of the previous meeting as a correct record]
- 4 **Matters arising**
[To consider any matters arising from the minutes]

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 5 **Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 - 2019/20** (Pages 13 - 20)
[Mark Taylor, Director Finance, to present report on savings, redesign and income generation proposals in 2017/18]
- 6 **City of Wolverhampton - Vision for Education 2030** (Pages 21 - 38)
[Alex Jones, Assistant Director (Schools Standards), to present Education Vision document]

4 **Matters arising**

Minute 5 – Parental Ambassadors Programme

Scrutiny Officer advised that a briefing paper on the programme giving more details was sent to panel members.

5 **Pupil Referral Unit Briefing paper**

Resolved:

The panel agreed to note the briefing paper.

6 **Children Safeguarding Board Annual Report 2015/16**

Alan Coe, Independent Chair of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board (WSCB), presented the annual report. The Independent Chair commented that the report represents a summary of partnership work activity between a range of local organisations involved in safeguarding children. The Independent Chair explained that he is responsible to the Chief Executive, City of Wolverhampton Council and meets with him to review progress.

The Independent Chair works 30 days a year and is supported by Gillian Ming, Children Safeguarding Board Manager. It is a statutory requirement for the Board to publish an annual report. The Independent Chair highlighted the key achievements of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Children Board and specifically the improved website which provides a range of information and resources. The Independent Chair commented that there has been better engagement by schools in the safeguarding agenda. All local schools were invited to attend an annual conference to discuss safeguarding issues. The attendance by schools at safeguarding events has improved. The panel were advised while there is no obligation on schools to send a representative to the event, they are encouraged to do so and non-attendance is monitored.

The Independent Chair commented on the work done to improve regional working arrangements. The Independent Chair praised the safeguarding work of the Council to improve the regulation of licensed premises and regulated services to meet its safeguarding responsibilities.

The panel were invited to attend the MASH offices to see the work being done and commented that the service was an example of good partnership working in practice.

The panel queried the involvement of children and young people in the work of WSCB. The Independent Chair responded that young people with direct experience of the care system were working with members of the B-Safe Team. The WSCB partly fund the work of the B-Safe Team. The team have met with Councillor Gibson, Cabinet Member for Children. Cllr Gibson commented that concerns about the issue of bullying raised by young people led to the development of the anti-bullying campaign. In addition, work is being done to get a small group of young people together to act as ambassadors.

The panel discussed the definition of neglect and the number of cases reported to the WSCB. The Independent Chair commented that the issue of neglect is a major concern among members of WSCB. The Board has recently produced guidance to

get greater consistency in how professionals recognise signs of neglect, which has led to a greater consistency in approach by partners.

The Independent Chair commented on the role of other agencies such as west midlands fire service in reporting any concerns about the welfare of children in a property they have visited. Gillian Ming, Safeguarding Manager, commented on the training provided to agencies to strengthen safeguarding arrangements to deliver more effective services.

The panel queried how the WSCB has considered the issue of mental health and the work done to identify and support children. The Independent Chair commented on the support given to victims of CSE.

The panel expressed concern about whether the right people were represented on the Board and the pattern of poor attendance detailed in the report by some organisations. The Independent Chair commented that all the organisations are engaged with the work of the Board and that the low rate of attendance should not be seen as a reflection of their level of commitment to safeguarding children. The Independent Chair also explained that organisations such as a fire service who offer a regional wide service are not able to attend all safeguarding board meetings across the seven different local authorities it covers due the limited staff resources. The Independent Chair advised that representatives of the fire service give priority to attending Safeguarding Adult Board meetings.

The Safeguarding Manager explained that the attendance figures were not correct and agreed to reproduce the report and share it with members of the Board.

The panel discussed the role and work of Child Death Panel during the year. The Safeguarding Manager explained that the Board had reviewed the circumstances involving 23 child deaths in Wolverhampton in 2015/16.

The panel commented on how different agencies were coping with the work demands and responding to the pressures, for example, a 34 percent increase in the number of CSE cases. The Independent Chair commented that every agency is under its own resource pressure and was confident that there was no evidence that cases were not being properly assessed, in order to reduce the demand.

The panel discussed the procedures and policies to monitor and identify pupil who are absent from schools.

The panel discussed the ethnic profile of children and young people known to the Board. The Independent Chair commented that children who are white European are over represented in the number of referrals received and minority ethnic children are under-represented. The Independent Chair agreed that the situation needs to be carefully monitored and removed to identify children at risk. The Safeguarding Manager commented on the work being planned to improve the quality of data. A report on the findings will be presented to Children's Trust Board in December 2016.

Resolved:

1. The panel welcomed the report and progress made.
2. The panel agreed to receive correct details of attendance at WSCB meetings

7 **Children's Services Self-Assessment - 'Our Story' and Improvement Plan**
Cllr Val Gibson, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People introduced the report. The Cabinet Member advised that all local authorities are inspected by Ofsted within a three year period. The inspection will cover issues such as governance, leadership and management. Wolverhampton was last inspected in June 2011. The Cabinet Member gave a summary of the Children's Services Improvement Plan and 'Our Story' which has been updated to reflect the current performance of the service. The Cabinet Member gave a summary of progress against key judgements, but accepted that there more needs to be done. Emma Bennett, Service Director Children and Young People, explained that the report is a self-assessment of the service and analysis against a performance scorecard of work done during the year.

The Service Director explained that the remit of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) has been extended to include adults. The Service Director offered to present a progress report to a future meeting of the panel for consideration. The Service Director highlighted the progress in reducing the number of looked after children and improved educational results – 19% of looked after children achieved five GCSEs at Key Stage Four in 2015. The result is well above the national average.

The Service Director commented that work is continuing to prepare a business case to exempt all care leaves from paying council tax. The policy was agreed at Council meeting.

The Service Director updated the panel on progress on the development of the regional adoption agency. Wolverhampton is part of the early adopter project which will provide an opportunity to share best practice. The Service Director agreed to share a briefing paper on the progress of establishing a regional adoption agency that was presented to Corporate Parenting Board with members of the panel.

The CSE Director updated the panel on the range of other initiatives to improve outcomes for children and young people in Wolverhampton, for example, work done to review the CSE strategy and welcomed the recent appointment of child sexual exploitation risk co-ordinator. The positive contribution by members of the Children in Care Council in the process was noted.

The panel discussed the Council's role in monitoring the care of children who are privately fostered by a family relative. The Service Director explained that the number of children in this situation is low. The Council is responsible to assess and review the welfare of the child in this arrangement.

The panel queried the reasons that details not provided about the human resources and equalities implications in the report. The Service Director accepted the point and agreed that a summary will be provided in future reports to the panel.

The panel suggested that it would be useful to have a public friendly version of the main report.

The Service Director accepted the point and agreed to look at the possibility of preparing a summary of the main report that could be shared with the public.

The panel discussed the policy towards the adoption of black and minority ethnic children and importance of considering cultural needs. In addition, the DFE has issued national guidance on the issue adoption of children.

The Service Director explained the criteria used when making a decision and reassured the panel that cultural needs of the child are considered. The Service Director also confirmed that regular checks are done to monitor how well the service is meeting the needs of black and minority ethnic children and the process is robust. For example, the adoption panel will ask prospective fosters about their understanding of the cultural needs of a child, where appropriate. The Service Director explained that where a child is being privately fostered or being home educated it is more difficult to monitor how their cultural and social needs are being met.

The panel discussed the lower adoption rate for black and minority ethnic children.

The panel welcomed the report and the progress made

Resolved:

1. The Service Director to share a briefing paper on progress in establishing the Regional Adoption Agency with the panel.
2. The Service Director to present a progress report on the performance of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to a future meeting of the panel.

8 **Update on Youth Offending Team Inspection Action Plan**

Sally Nash, Head of Service –Youth Offending Team introduced the report detailing the findings of a full joint inspection of the service. The Head of Service commented that the service had performed really well and is the highest performing service in the country. Cllr Val Gibson, Cabinet Member for Children praised the performance of the service.

The Head of Service commented on the significant progress on actions detailed in the joint inspection plan.

The panel discussed the plans to use a toolkit developed by Youth Justice Board to provide better intelligence about where action is needed to address the particular needs of the local community in Wolverhampton. The Head of Service commented that analysis has shown young black men are underrepresented in prevention service and the toolkit will help to provide a better understanding of how issues such as diversity are considered by agencies. The Head of Service commented that the service will continue to work with local voluntary sector organisations with the skills and experience to reach these groups.

The Head of Service advised that the use of the toolkit will be considered by YOT Management Board. The Head of Service advised that quarterly meetings are held with Youth Justice Board to review the progress of the joint inspection action plan.

The panel discussed the services commitment to address diversity and equality issues. The Head of Service acknowledged the issue and confirmed the commitment to monitor and improve the service. The panel suggested that results of the equalities analysis works should be presented to a future meeting.

The panel discussed the importance of considering the safeguarding issues of vulnerable young people who may be at risk of offending and engaging with them. The importance of making services proportionate and relevant to the needs of the local population was highlighted.

Resolved:

1. The panel welcomed the report and the excellent performance of the service.
2. The findings of the toolkit developed by Youth Justice Board to be presented to a future meeting of the panel.
3. The findings of the equalities analysis to be presented to a future meeting of the panel.

9 **Healthy Child Programme**

Neeraj Malhotra, Consultant in Public Health, introduced the report and explained the development of the new service model for the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme. The Consultant in Public Health gave a summary of the key findings from the formal engagement and consultation with the public and a range of health professionals on the proposed service model.

The Consultant in Public Health commented on how responses to the consultation have helped to shape the proposal for the new service. The Consultant in Public Health commented that there was broad agreement about the proposals for improving the service – a key aim was moving from the current model of having three distinct services to a model which is less rigid and focused on improving health outcomes for children from 0 – 19 years old. The model will bring together three separate services into one team.

The youth council representative commented on the positive experience of being involved in the consultation. The Consultant in Public Health commented on how feedback from the youth council and other groups had helped to shape the plans and that a key requirement of the service provider for the programme is they have a have a model that meets the needs of different groups and receive input from service users on a regular basis.

The Consultant Public Health advised the panel that the new service will start delivering from 1 August 2017.

The panel welcomed the report.

Resolved:

The panel supported the proposed new service model for the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme.

10 **Transformation Plan Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) - report to follow**

The Service Director, Children and Young People, agreed to investigate the reason for no report being presented to the panel. The panel to be advised of the outcome.

The meeting closed at 19:50

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Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

07 December 2016

Report title	Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 - 2019/20	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Val Gibson Children and Young People	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Keith Ireland, Managing Director	
Originating service	Strategic Finance	
Accountable employee(s)	Mark Taylor	Director of Finance
	Tel	01902 554410
	Email	Mark.Taylor@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered by		

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

1. Provide feedback to Scrutiny Board for consolidation and onward response to Cabinet on the Draft Budget 2017/18, in particular those elements that are relevant to this Scrutiny Panel, including specifically:
 - a. the Budget Reduction and Income Generation Proposals summarised at Appendix A.
 - b. the Financial Transactions and Base Budget Revisions summarised at Appendix B.
 - c. the other underlying assumptions to the 2017/18 Draft Budget as detailed at Appendix C.
2. Approve that the Scrutiny Panel response be finalised by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Scrutiny Panel and forwarded to Scrutiny Board for consideration.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Panel's feedback on the Draft Budget 2017/18 including the related Budget Reduction and Income Generation Proposals, Financial Transactions and Base Budget Revisions and underlying Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) assumptions that was approved by Cabinet to proceed for formal consultation and scrutiny stages of the budget process, as appropriate, on 19 October 2016.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 At its meeting on 19 October 2016, the Cabinet considered the Draft Budget for 2017/18. Cabinet approved this as the basis for budget consultation and scrutiny over the forthcoming months.
- 2.2 The Cabinet report recommended that Budget Reduction and Income Generation Proposals amounting to £13.5 million in 2017/18 proceed to the formal consultation and scrutiny stages of the budget process. The Proposals that fall within the scrutiny remit of this Panel are shown at Appendix A.
- 2.3 The Cabinet report further identified that £10.0 million of Financial Transaction and Base Budget Revisions be incorporated into the 2017/18 Draft Budget. The Revisions that fall within the scrutiny remit of this Panel are shown at Appendix B.
- 2.4 Included at Appendix C is the other underlying assumption that impacts on the 2017/18 Draft Budget, that falls within the remit of this Panel, for example inflationary, demographic and pay related pressures.
- 2.5 It is important to note that any budget reduction and income generation proposals approved as part of prior year budget setting processes have already been scrutinised and approved by Cabinet and are therefore, already included in the MTFS.
- 2.6 As detailed in the Cabinet report, the 2017/18 Draft Budget will be considered by Scrutiny Panels during the November/December round of meetings and the feedback from those meetings will be reported to Scrutiny Board on 13 December 2016, which will consolidate that feedback in a formal response to Cabinet on 18 January 2017. The feedback provided to Scrutiny Board will include questions asked by Panel members, alongside the responses received. Cabinet will take into account the feedback from Scrutiny Board when considering the final budget setting report in February 2017, for approval by Full Council in March 2017.
- 2.7 In order to limit the volume of paper used as part of the budget reporting process, the Cabinet report has not been appended to this covering report. Panel members are instead requested to bring their copy of the Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 - 2019/20 report, which was circulated with the 19 October 2016 Cabinet agenda. Detail of all the Council's individual proposals, including the latest to be considered by Cabinet on 19 October 2016, can be found on the Council's website at: <http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/budgetsavings>

3.0 Proposals relating to the work of this Panel

- 3.1 Included in the Draft Budget strategy are budget reduction and income generation proposals and financial transaction and base budget revisions relating to the remit of this Panel. These are listed at Appendices A and B. The Panel is requested to provide and record its comments on these proposals, for submission to Scrutiny Board and then Cabinet.
- 3.2 In addition to commenting on these specific proposals, the Panel may also request additional information or clarification in relation to the budget and MTFS. Any such requests will be noted separately, either for consideration by the Panel at a future date, or for information to be forwarded to the Panel members concerned.

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The financial implications are discussed in the body of the report, and in the report to Cabinet. [MH/11112016/D]

4.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 The legal implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet. [TS/11112016/A]

5.0 Equalities implications

- 5.1 The equalities implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet.

6.0 Environmental implications

- 6.1 The environmental implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet.

7.0 Human resources implications

- 7.1 The human resources implications are discussed in the report to Cabinet.

8.0 Schedule of background papers

- 9.1 Draft Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2017/18 – 2019/20, report to Cabinet, 19 October 2016

Budget Reduction and Income Generation Proposals by Cabinet Portfolio

Children and Young People

Details	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000
<p>Supervised Contact Efficiencies</p> <p>The number of looked after children has reduced from 807 in October 2014 to 627 as at the end of September 2016. This is a continuing and planned reduction brought about by effective management of the entry point, provision of Edge of Care Services and robust exit planning under the Children's Services transformation programme.</p> <p>Supervised contact provision is currently serviced through the Blakenhall Contact Centre. Due to the historic high and increasing demand of the Looked After Childrens Service additional provision was made through a £264,000 contract with a voluntary organisation (Spurgeons). This contract is currently funded until 31 March 2017. In addition the provision included funding for two additional FTE contact workers posts, which are now vacant.</p> <p>It is proposed to decommission the contracted activity and the two posts from the start of the financial year 2017/18 due to reduction in demand.</p>	(264)	-	-
<p>Children's Transformation Inclusion Support Income Generation</p> <p>Inclusion Support comprises a range of services to promote successful inclusion and engagement of children and young people in education.</p> <p>In addition to the delivery of services which are either statutory responsibilities or linked to the Corporate Plan, the service also delivers traded services to schools and other organisations to undertake activities which are not part of the Council's statutory responsibilities or core business.</p>	(150)	-	-

Budget Reduction and Income Generation Proposals by Cabinet Portfolio

Details	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000
<p>The pricing for these traded services is set to enable full cost recovery but not to make a profit. Nevertheless, there is the potential to increase income generation, for two reasons. First, as traded work is usually at an earlier stage of intervention than statutory/core work, it means that increasing capacity in this area has the potential to reduce demand at a statutory level. Second, there are economies of scale to be achieved by growing traded services, which creates opportunities for efficiencies in the cost of service delivery.</p> <p>The proposal is to achieve an overall budget gain of £150,000 through increasing buy-in of traded Inclusion Support services.</p>			
<p>Youth Offending Team Efficiencies</p> <p>The proposal is to reduce the Youth Offending Team (YOT) budget by £100,000 by 2017/18. These savings will be found from two vacancies that exist on the YOT establishment and it is anticipated that with smarter and more agile working, the impact of these savings can be mitigated.</p>	(100)	-	-
<p>Children's Services Transformation</p> <p>The Children's Services Transformation Programme will continue to build on the significant changes made to date, through a number of projects across the service area in order to deliver a seamless, targeted approach to service delivery. This will ensure services are offered at the earliest point, in order to reduce demand on specialist services, and effectively and efficiently improve outcomes for children and young people. A consequence of this programme will be the continued delivery of efficiencies across the service area.</p>	(2,500)	-	-

Appendix B

Financial Transactions and Base Budget Revisions

Children and Young People

Details	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000
Looked After Children – Removal of inflation pressures relating to foster payments	(170)	-	-

2017/18 Draft Budget Assumptions

Details	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	2019/20 £000
Budget Growth			
People Demographic and Demand – Looked After Children; continued increase in numbers combined with the previous inflationary pressure relating to Foster Carers – linked to Financial Transaction and Base Budget Revision above.	170	170	-

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Children, Young People and Families Scrutiny Panel

7 December 2016

Report title	City of Wolverhampton – Vision for Education 2030	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Cllr Claire Darke Education	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Julien Kramer (Education)	
Originating service	School Standards	
Accountable employee(s)	Alex Jones Tel Email	Assistant Director – School Standards 01902 5275 Alex.jones2@wolverhampton.gov.uk
Report to be/has been considered	Strategic Executive Board	15/11/16

Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Scrutiny Board is recommended to:

1. Scrutinise the City of Wolverhampton Council – Vision for Education 2030 (draft) (Appendix 1).
2. Comment on the scope and effectiveness of City of Wolverhampton Council's Vision for Education 2030 (draft) and its effectiveness in securing the highest possible standards across all Wolverhampton schools and educational providers.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To consult with the Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel on the City of Wolverhampton – Vision for Education 2030 (draft).
- 1.2 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel is invited to scrutinise the contents of the report and make any suggestions or recommendations that strengthen the City of Wolverhampton Council – Vision for Education 2030 (draft).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 The City of Wolverhampton Council – Vision for Education 2030 (draft) brings together the ambitions of all strands of education, across all directorates of the council, to ensure that education continues to play a key role in making the City a place people come to from far and wide to invest, work, shop, study and play. The Vision encompasses the council's commitment to ensuring that our young people have outstanding opportunities at every stage of their education – from nursery through to university and beyond.

3.0 Discussion

- 3.1 The main sections of the Vision are:
 - The vision statement
 - Foreword from Cllr Darke
 - Journey of Education
 - Education Transformation in the city
 - Delivering our vision :
 - Partnership working
 - Supporting the most vulnerable
 - Educational leadership
 - Commercial and digital transformation

4.0 Financial implications

- 4.1 The cost of implementation of the Vision has been included in the approved revenue budgets in each directorate.

The cost of educational failure is however significant for the school, for the community and for the City in economic terms - It is therefore evident that the role of the LA in supporting raising standards in schools has financially significant implications for the Council and for the City.

[MF/23112016/Z]

5.0 Legal implications

- 5.1 Under Section 13 of the Education Act 1996 the Council has a duty to contribute to the development of the community by securing efficient primary and secondary education and promote high standards in the city.

[Legal Code: TS/23112016/E]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 Some pupils and some schools face greater challenges in achieving educational success; there are therefore profound Equalities implications to the LA and to schools in ensuring that every child and young person achieves their full potential and every school provides good educational outcomes.

7.0 Environmental implications

7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

8.0 Human resources implications

8.1 There are no direct human resource implications arising from this report.

9.0 Corporate landlord implications

9.1 There are no direct Corporate Landlord implications arising from this report.

10.0 Schedule of background papers

10.1 N/A

This report is Public
[NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED]

Appendix 1

The vision for education 2030 – shaping a city of learning

The vision for education 2030

Shaping a City of Learning



wolverhampton.gov.uk

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Our vision for the City of Wolverhampton in 2030

In 2030 the City of Wolverhampton will be a thriving university city of opportunity where we...

CELEBRATE ENTERPRISE, EDUCATION AND SKILLS

HAVE A CITY CENTRE WE'RE PROUD OF

ARE SERIOUS ABOUT BOOSTING HEALTH AND WELLBEING

retain more of the value produced by our economy to **benefit the whole city**

have a **buoyant and resilient economy** that includes international manufacturing companies with local roots and a strong, vibrant and innovative business base

care and are **confident** about our **diversity**

are committed to **sustainability** for future generations

have world class public services that **continually improve** and have collaboration and co-production at their heart

all play our part in creating a confident, buzzing city that's synonymous with **ambition, innovation and inclusion**

make it **easy for businesses and visitors to access the city** and are well connected to the wider world through our infrastructure

have a **vibrant civic society** that's focused on the future, empowers local communities and is supported by local businesses and institutions

Our education vision for 2030

The City of Wolverhampton Council's vision is to create an education system for all of our children and young people that:

- Promotes the very highest standards.
- Raises their attainment and closes the gap.
- Inspires them to reach their full potential.
- Delivers a city of learning.
- Ensures a bright future in a fast changing, progressive city.



Foreword from Cabinet Member for Education, Cllr Claire Darke: shaping the city's future

We have an ambitious vision to make the City of Wolverhampton a place people come to from far and wide to invest, work, shop, study and play.

We want to become a thriving 'smart city', internationally renowned for its booming economy and skilled workforce, rich diversity and a commitment to fairness and equality which ensures everyone has the chance to benefit from its success.

Education has a key part to play in ensuring we make this vision a reality, and we are committed to ensuring that our young people have outstanding opportunities at every stage of their education – from nursery through to university and beyond. Wolverhampton is committed to becoming a city of learning to celebrate its commitment to lifelong learning.

More than 42,000 students attend schools in the City of Wolverhampton, with thousands

more studying at our thriving college and university or on apprenticeships with local employers.

Our schools have been on a rapid journey of improvement in the last few years, with the council investing more than £300 million rebuilding or refurbishing every secondary school and expanding primary schools to cope with demand.

Pupils and teachers are responding well to this investment in their future – Ofsted outcomes have improved dramatically, with 83% of the city's schools now rated good or outstanding, compared to 65% just three years ago.

Results have also improved rapidly during this period, with outcomes for our youngest children improving for four years running and performance at Key Stage 2 the best in Birmingham and the Black Country. GCSE results achieved the national average level

for the first time in 2016, and post-16 results continue to be among the best in the whole country.

These improvements have been possible through the strong partnership working between the council, schools, further and higher education providers and local businesses.

We recognise these improvements are just the beginning of our education journey. Today's children are the workforce of tomorrow and central to our city's future success, and we will strive to ensure that we give everyone the very best education – and the very best chance to succeed.

We've invested £300 million in world class school facilities

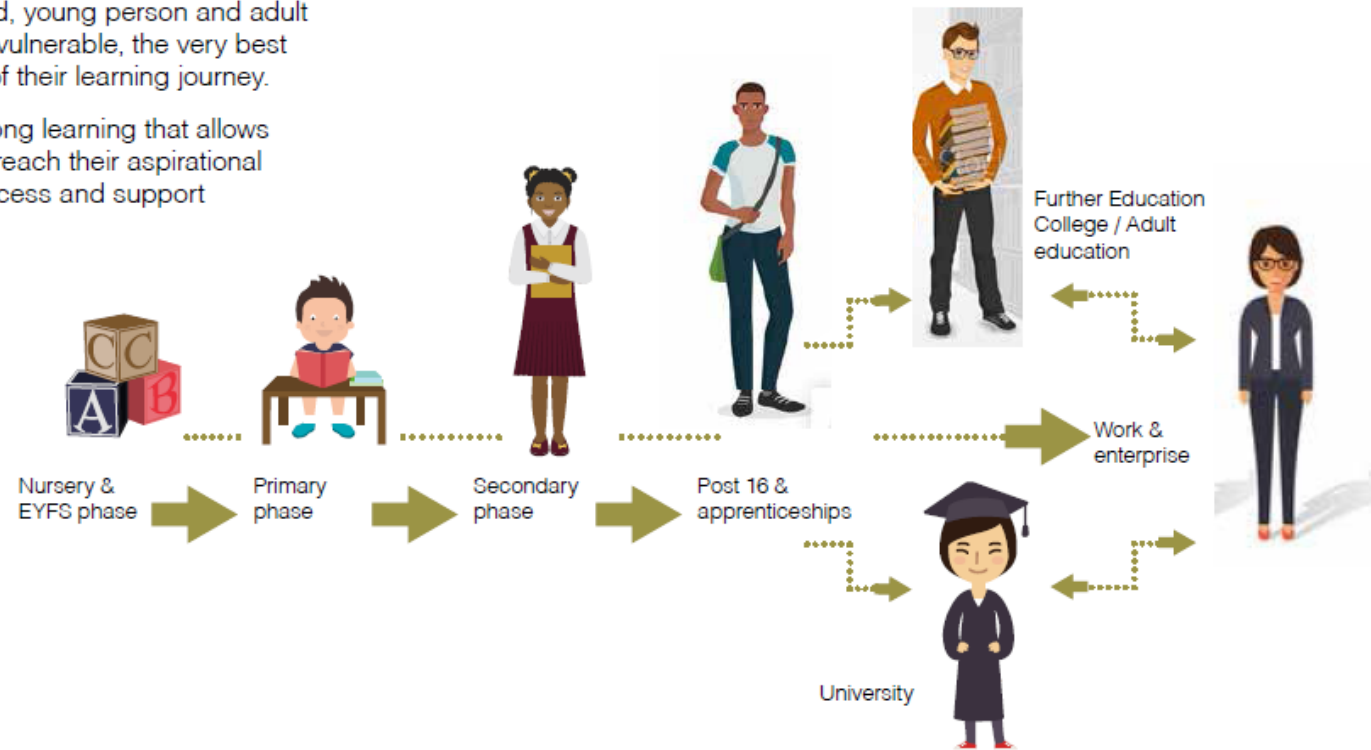


The journey of education in the City of Wolverhampton

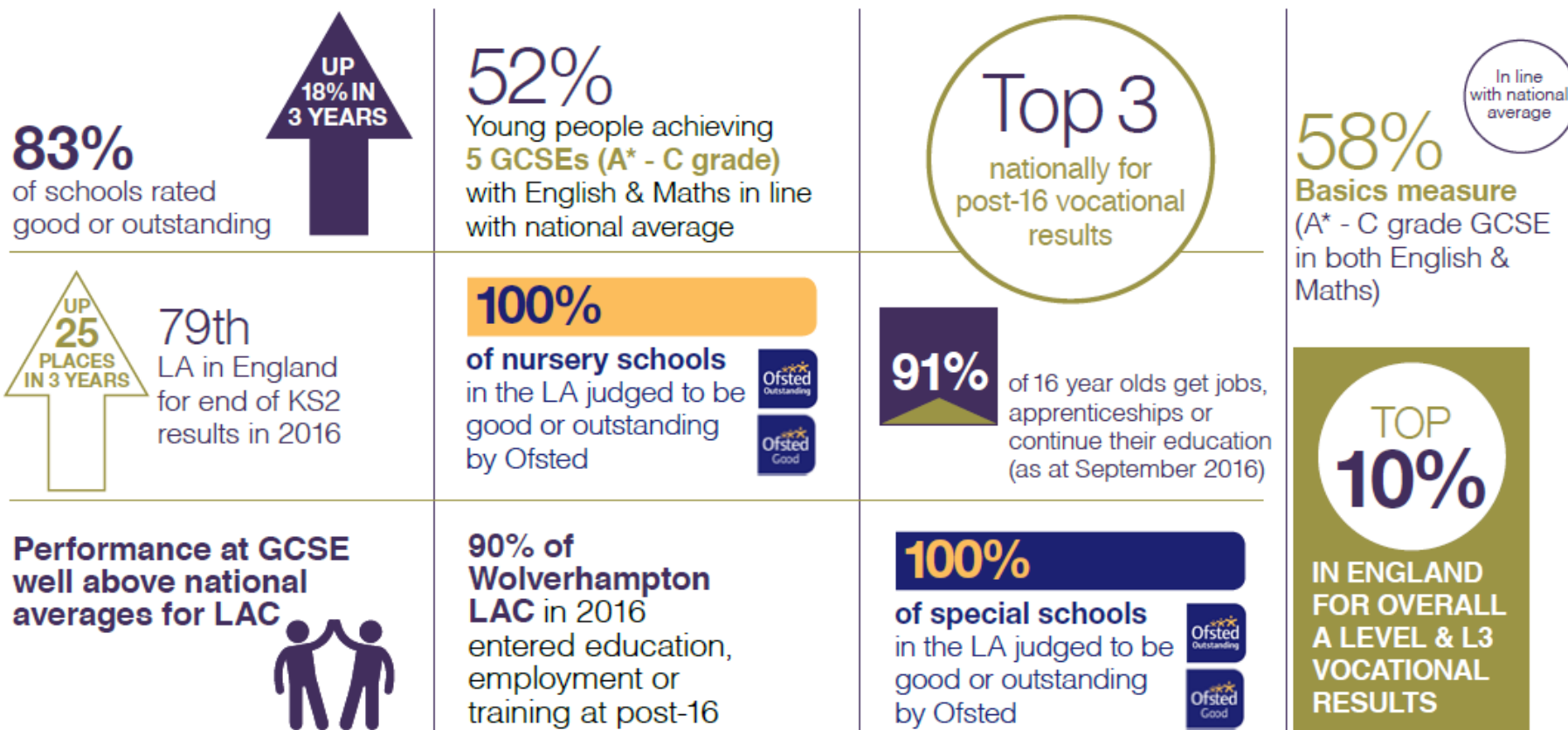
The council aspires to offer every child, young person and adult learner in the city, including our most vulnerable, the very best educational provision at every stage of their learning journey.

We encourage a commitment to life-long learning that allows them to believe in their own ability, to reach their aspirational potential, improve their economic success and support the city's regeneration and prosperity.

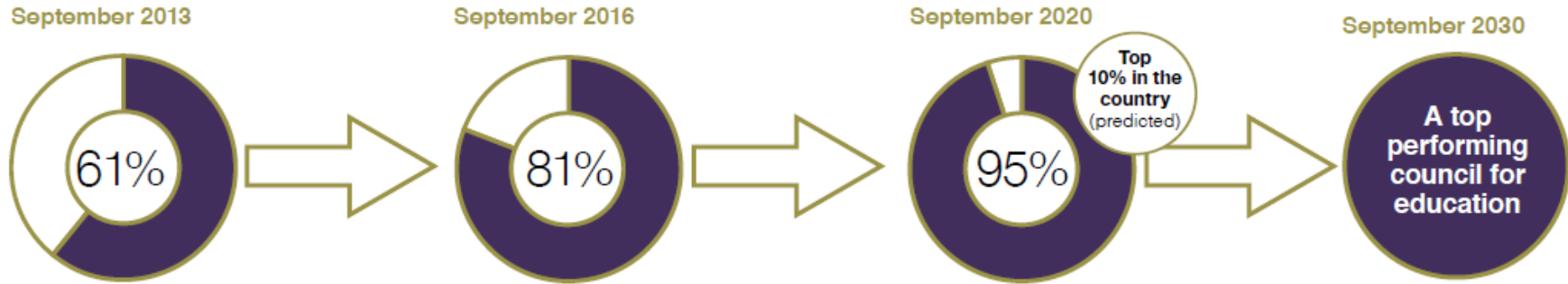
To help promote lifelong learning across the city, Wolverhampton is committed to becoming a city of learning that supports individual empowerment and social inclusion. This is supported by our city commitment to promoting equality and social justice supported by economic, educational and cultural regeneration.



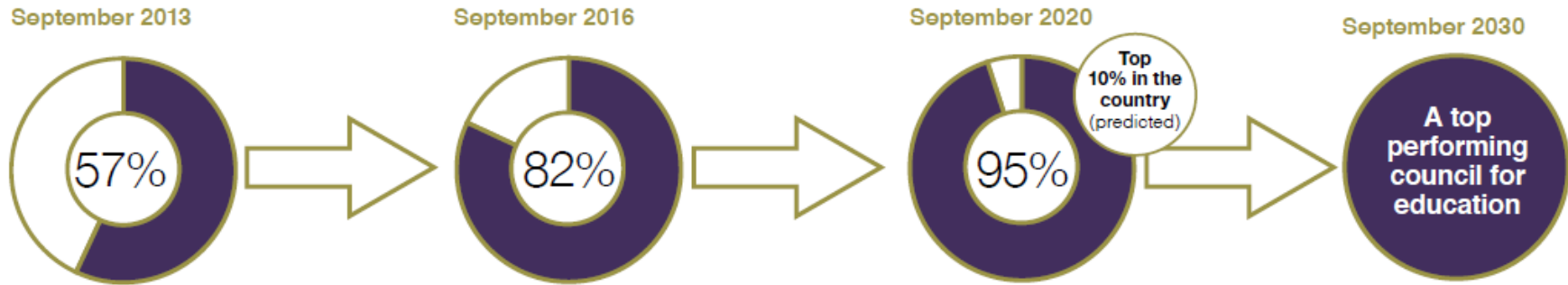
Education transformation in the city:



Ofsted outcomes – primary schools



Ofsted outcomes – secondary schools



Shaping the future: delivering our vision for 2030

Partnership working to deliver improved outcomes for children and young people:

The council will:

- Promote outstanding standards of early year's provision to ensure that all children are school ready.
- Relentlessly focus on the highest levels of support, challenge and intervention to ensure every school and provider in the city provides an outstanding level of education that meets the needs of every learner, from the most vulnerable to those who are gifted and talented.
- Continue to support the development of teaching school alliances and the establishment of local school support networks in order to support school autonomy, whilst continuing to raise educational standards regardless of a school's designation.
- Work closely with education providers to develop strong links with local businesses and ensure that employability and enterprise skills underpin every provider's curriculum

offer. These strong partnerships will better prepare our young people for the world of work. This commitment will continue to be supported by the city's Business Champions.

- Provide all young people access to a full-range of impartial careers advice and guidance that enables them to make informed future choices. The offer to young people will be inclusive and promote access to all academic and vocational pathways, including apprenticeships and other further and higher opportunities.
- Continue to work with schools and partners to ensure that appropriate levels of high quality school places, in inspiring and cutting-edge world class schools, are available for every learner and ensure that parents have a realistic chance of gaining a place in a preferred school for their child.

Schools and providers will:

- Work in close partnership with the council and their established school support networks to provide an outstanding level of education that meets the needs of every learner, from the most vulnerable to those who are gifted and talented.
- Create and maintain inspiring and cutting edge educational environments that offer high quality places to every learner in the city.
- Ensure that employability skills underpin curriculum development for all learners and that they build effective partnerships with local businesses in order to prepare our young people for the world of work, support economic success and to enable them to contribute to the future regeneration of the city.
- Engage effectively with the full-range of impartial careers advice and guidance that enables all learners to make informed future choices.

Supporting the most vulnerable:

The council will:

- Ensure, with the support of local partners, stakeholders and providers and with the engagement of parents/carers and learners, that there is in place a well planned continuum of provision from birth to age 25 that meets the needs of children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and maximises their progression into employment.
- Ensure that Looked after Children (LAC) are given top priority and support to access the best possible educational experience and achieve their future potential and economic success.
- Continue to provide outstanding support for young people at risk of offending to ensure that they have excellent life chances and experience economic success.
- Support the emotional wellbeing and resilience of our children and young people through the HeadStart programme and beyond.

Schools and providers will:

- Ensure that their provision is fully inclusive for all learners across the city regardless of background, disability or special educational need.
- Support the emotional wellbeing and resilience all of their learners.



Educational leadership:

The council will:

- Maintain a strong Education Directorate led by a Director of Education that ensures we can continue to effectively fulfil our statutory role as well as continuing to strive for excellence for every learner in the city.
- Continue to deliver high quality leadership training and development to schools and providers that ensures that staff at every level, from teaching assistant to head teacher, have outstanding leadership skills that drive up standards and improve outcomes for all of the city's learners.
- Challenge and intervene in any schools, regardless of designation, where standards of leadership, including governance, do not promote the very highest standards of education.
- Strive to ensure that school governors have the skills, determination and resilience to challenge and support school leaders to drive continuous improvements in the schools they have responsibility for.

Schools and providers will:

- Ensure that staff, at every level of the organisation, have the appropriate skill set to be effective leaders of education and drive up standards for all learners.
- Ensure that governors have the skills, determination and resilience to challenge and support school leaders to seek continuous improvements in the schools they have responsibility for.



Commercial and digital transformation:

The council will:

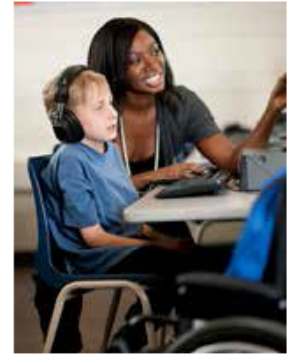
- Develop a city of learning that includes an innovative, technologically advanced city centre Learning Quarter offering academic, vocational, return-to-learn, adult education and higher education opportunities. The city's schools and providers will be supported to meet challenges and transform education and training for future learners.
- Continue to support the development of digitally innovative and future-proofed learning environments and curriculums that ensure that our learners leave school as some of the most technologically capable young people in the country.
- Establish an arms-length, wholly owned trading company that offers a range of high quality services to schools - in the city, regionally and nationally.

Schools and providers will:




- Engage effectively with the council and partners to support the development of a city of learning that includes an innovative and technologically advanced city centre Learning Quarter.
- Ensure that learning environments and curriculums are digitally innovative and future-proofed to ensure that learners leave school as some of the most technologically capable young people in the country.



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