



Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel

23 July 2014

Report title	Wolverhampton 2014 School Improvement Strategy	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Philip Page Schools, Skills and Learning	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Tim Johnson, Education and Enterprise	
Originating service	Standards and Vulnerable Pupils	
Accountable employee(s)	James McElligott	Assistant Director
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Report to be considered by	Strategic Executive Board	September 2014

Recommendation for action or decision:

The Panel is recommended to:

1. Scrutinise the 2014 School Improvement Strategy and comment on the scope and effectiveness of the plans in securing the highest possible standards of achievement in all Wolverhampton schools.

Recommendation for noting:

The Panel is asked to note:

2. That this item is being considered as pre-decision scrutiny and will therefore not be available to call-in once a decision is made by the Executive.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 In an increasingly autonomous school system where school improvement is put in the hands of schools the revised School Improvement Strategy. The strategy sets out to capture the role of the local authority in promoting high educational standards for all children and young people, and to close the attainment gap.
- 1.2 The Children and Young People Scrutiny Panel is invited to scrutinise the contents of the strategy and make any suggestions or recommendations that strengthen the council's ability to carry out its functions.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Local authorities' statutory responsibilities for educational excellence are set out in section 13a of the Education Act 1996.
- 2.2 That duty states that a local authority must exercise its education functions with a view to promoting high standards in primary and secondary schools. Local authorities are discharging this duty within the context of increasing autonomy and changing accountability for schools, alongside an expectation that improvement should be led by schools themselves.

3.0 Discussion

- 3.1 The Wolverhampton 2014 School Improvement Strategy has been circulated to schools and other key stakeholders for consultation. Responses will be analysed and incorporated as necessary before a final draft is presented to the Strategic Executive Board early in September 2014 for approval before circulation of the final version of the strategy.

4.0 Financial implications

The cost of implementation and monitoring of the 2014 School Improvement Strategy and the Councils statutory duties has been included in the approved revenue budget for the Learning and Achievement service. There are no further financial implications arising from this report. [CF/08072014/N]

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 in the city. The Education Act 1996 also requires such functions to be carried out with a view to promoting high standards. The 2014 School Improvement Strategy is intended to ensure that the Council succeeds in delivering the requirements of Section 13 of the Education Act 1996. [TS/02072014/V]

6.0 Equalities implications

6.1 There are no further implications for the Council's Equalities policies arising from this report.

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 resources 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 None

11.0 References

- 1996 Education Act section 13a
- 2006 Education and Inspections Act
- 2010 White Paper 'The Importance of Teaching'
- May 2014 'Schools Causing Concern – statutory guidance for local authorities'