

**Report to:** Children's Services Scrutiny Committee

**Date:** 27 June 2016

**By:** Chair of the Review Board

**Title:** Scrutiny Review of Key Stage 1 Educational Attainment

**Purpose:** To present the outcomes of the scrutiny review and make recommendations

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**RECOMMENDATION:** The Committee is recommended to consider and approve the report of the Review Board

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## **1. Background**

1.1 At its meeting on 21 September 2015, the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee appointed a Review Board to conduct a review of educational attainment at Key Stage 1.

1.2 Whilst the Committee initially proposed a review of educational attainment across the whole of Key Stage 1, the introduction of a new National Curriculum and a new assessment framework that replaced National Curriculum Levels with a process of Assessment Without Levels (AWL) made comparing year-on-year educational attainment at the end of the key stage impractical.

1.3 Educational attainment for pupils in KS1 is also measured by a phonics screening check for Year 1 pupils, so the Review Board agreed to focus on this aspect of educational attainment instead.

1.4 The Review Board also agreed that it was impractical to consider phonics screening checks without understanding the fundamental changes the introduction of the new national curriculum and AWL have had on Key Stage 1.

## **2. Supporting information**

2.1 The Scrutiny Review Board comprised five members of the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee: Cllrs Michael Ensor, Angharad Davies, Claire Dowling, Johanna Howell and Alan Shuttleworth. Cllr Ensor was elected as the Chair of the Review Board.

2.2 In the context of the national developments referred to in paragraph 1.2, the Review Board agreed to conduct a 'table-top' review and held one evidence gathering meeting. Table top reviews focus on a tightly defined topic and often only need one or two evidence gathering sessions. Reports arising from such reviews are usually only presented to the parent scrutiny committee.

2.3 The attached report (appendix 1) contains the findings and recommendations of the Review Board.

## **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 The Review Board undertook a 'table-top' review, so it is recommended that only the Children's Services Scrutiny Committee considers the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Review Board at this stage. It is, however, for the Committee itself to decide whether the report is subsequently forwarded on to Cabinet and Full Council.

3.2 The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee is recommended to agree the report of the Review Board.

**COUNCILLOR MICHAEL ENSOR**  
**Chair of the Review Board**

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny Review of Key Stage 1 Educational Attainment

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None