

Report to: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 6 June 2017

By: Director of Children's Services

Title: Scrutiny Review of Educational Attainment at Key Stage 4

Purpose: To provide Cabinet with the opportunity to comment on the report of the Scrutiny Committee Review of Educational Attainment Key Stage 4

RECOMMENDATIONS

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1. Note the report of the Scrutiny Committee; and**
 - 2. Advise the County Council that, in considering the report of the Scrutiny Committee, the Council be recommended to welcome the report of the Scrutiny Committee and to agree the response of the Director of Children's Services to the recommendations and their implementation as set out in the action plan attached as Appendix 1 to this report.**
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1 Background

1.1 The Children's Services Scrutiny Committee appointed a Review Board to conduct a review of educational attainment at Key Stage 4. Following a detailed discussion on the barriers that secondary schools face to sustain improvement in educational attainment, it was decided to focus on issues relating to the recruitment and retention of teachers and its potential impact on attainment.

1.2 The report of the Committee, focuses on the relationship between recruitment and retention and educational attainment because the Board felt that it could provide practical recommendations to assist schools with the recruitment challenges that they face (the Committee's report is attached as item 5a elsewhere on the agenda).

2 Supporting information

2.1 Children's Services welcome the Scrutiny Review of educational attainment at Key Stage 4 and in particular the recognition that it gives to the significance and importance of the recruitment and retention of teaching staff.

2.2 The action plan, attached as Appendix 1, sets out the response to the recommendations made by the Scrutiny Committee and demonstrates the Council's commitment to this national and local issue.

2.3 The leadership for school improvement now sits with schools, and they are increasingly demonstrating their collective commitment to whole-system improvement. As schools work together to build a sector-led improvement system, the local authority will continue to provide support in order to discharge its responsibilities to:

- Act as champion of children, young people and their parents, in particular the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.
- Promote high standards of education and have high expectations for the outcomes of all groups of pupils.

- Safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

2.4 The role and responsibility of the Regional School Commissioner (RSC) in raising education attainment is as follows:

- taking action where academies and free schools are underperforming or where governance is inadequate
- deciding on applications from LA maintained schools to convert to academy status
- improving underperforming maintained schools by providing them with support from a strong sponsor
- encouraging and deciding on applications from sponsors to operate in a region
- taking action to improve poorly performing sponsors
- advising on proposals for new free schools
- advising on whether to cancel, defer or enter into funding agreements with free school projects
- deciding on applications to make significant changes to academies and free schools

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

3.1 The Scrutiny Review has provided a useful insight into the attainment at Key Stage 4 and the issues related to the retention and recruitment of teaching staff in East Sussex. The report has made six recommendations which cover the recruitment and retention of teaching staff with a greater emphasis on retaining staff. The recommendations provide the opportunity to address leadership and teacher shortages in our schools and the department's responses are set out in the action plan. This recognises the role of the Local Authority in delivering school improvement and supports the department's *Excellence for All* strategy. Cabinet is recommended to approve the response of the Director of Children's Services to the recommendations and their implementation as set out in the action plan attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

STUART GALLIMORE
Director of Children's Services

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

Appendix 1:

Response and action plan from the Director of Children's Services