

Education portfolio: follow-up actions and update

Reference Number: PAF/20/20

Report title: Education portfolio: follow-up actions and update	
Report to: People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee	
Report author: Graham Hughes, Senior Democratic Services Officer	
Date: 8 October 2020	For: To consider this report and identify any follow-up actions
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County Divisions affected: Not applicable	

1. Introduction

It was agreed that further updates should be provided on four education issues as a result of Committee discussions on 16 January 2020, 14 May 2020 and 23 July 2020 respectively as outlined in Background below.

2. Action required

The Committee is asked to consider the updates in Appendices 1-4 attached and identify any further follow-up actions.

3. Background

- (a) On 16 January 2020 the Committee discussed early interventions in the Early Years' sector and an extract minute of that discussion is reproduced below recording the request for a draft of the Early Year's Strategy to be presented to this Committee (which is attached as **Appendix 1**).

Minute 5(ii) - Expectations of interventions by the Early Years' Sector

Clare Kershaw gave an oral update on interventions by the Early Years' sector. There was work underway looking at establishing a new school readiness strategy. This strategy would include looking at the support for initial transition into a child's first school and the processes in place for communications and language development testing at the end of reception year. Development of the strategy also needed to align with other workstreams being led by Councillor Mckinlay (Cabinet Member for Children and Families) on deprivation, disadvantaged, and those just about managing, and also the interface with the children's wellbeing service delivered by Virgin care and Barnardo's. The strategy would also look at further improving the targeting of resource.

Conclusion: **Agreed** that the draft Early Years Strategy would be

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presented to the Committee ahead of launch.

- (b) On 16 January 2020 the Committee also discussed work underway to further improve the linkages of wellbeing programmes operating in schools and an extract minute of that discussion is reproduced below recording the request for a further update on wellbeing programmes and personal resilience to be presented to this Committee (which is attached as **Appendix 2**).

Minute 5(ii) Wellbeing programmes in schools and personal resilience

Clare Kershaw provided an oral update on work underway to further improve the linkages of wellbeing programmes operating in schools with the provider of emotional wellbeing and mental health services for children and young people in Essex and the promotion of personal resilience.

- The intention was to focus further on more early intervention and prevention prior to the thresholds for the current commissioned service with the North East London Foundation Trust and to look at underlying reasons for bad or disruptive behaviour;
- There was an ambition for every school to be trained in trauma prevention practice. The practice was more than just a workforce development programme and sought to change the values and ethos in a school;
- Mapping of secondary support available had highlighted that there were around 300 support networks in Essex that can build upon and complement ECCs commissioned emotional wellbeing and mental health services. ECC were looking at developing a portal for this information as part of highlighting the suite of services available;
- In terms of personal resilience, ECC was looking at greater consistency in use of language and descriptions being used.

Conclusion

Agreed:

- (i) A copy of the Trauma Perceptive Practice to be circulated to members;
 - (ii) Officers to revisit to see how Trauma Perceptive Practice will be monitored on an ongoing basis;
 - (iii) A further update on wellbeing programmes and personal resilience to be given later in the year;
- (c) On 14 May 2020 during discussion of the Annual Report on Educational Attainment in Essex Schools dated 20 April 2020 it was agreed that an

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update on the Disadvantaged Pupils Pilot would be scheduled into the Committee's work programme (and this is attached as **Appendix 3**).

- (d) On 23 July 2020, during discussion under agenda item 5 (Essex County Council - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Structure Update), it was **agreed** that a monthly analysis on attendance at school during the lock-down, and planned recovery actions, should be provided at a meeting of the Committee in Autumn and this is attached as **Appendix 4**.

4. Update and Next Steps

The updates are attached as listed in 5. below. Next steps are as stated in Action Required.

5 List of Appendices

Appendix 1 - Early Years Strategy update.

Appendix 2 - Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service and Trauma Perceptive Practice update.

Appendix 3 - Disadvantaged Strategy update.

Appendix 4 - Experience of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities families during lockdown