

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Deputy Chief Executive (People)

to

People Scrutiny

on

9th July 2019

Report prepared by: Amanda Champ, Head of School
Performance & Provision Services

Schools Progress Report

People Scrutiny Committee – Cabinet Member: Councillor Anne Jones

1. Purpose of Report

To inform Members of the current position with regard to the performance of all schools, including those schools causing concern, and to update on known Academy developments.

2. Recommendations

For People Scrutiny to note and approve the information in this report

It should be noted that several of the initiatives outlined below are a direct implementation of the 2019-20 2050 Outcome Delivery Plan for Opportunity and Prosperity, readiness for school and work.

3. Background

Ofsted Inspections

There have been five OFSTED inspections since the last schools progress report.

Southend YMCA community school received a short inspection on 28th of February 2019. The inspection report which was published on March 28th found the school to be good.

Darlinghurst Academy was inspected on the 6th and 7th June 2019.

Thorpedene was inspected on 27th June 2019.

Blenheim and Hamstel Junior School were inspected on 28th June 2019.

None of these reports have been published at the time of writing and, as such, are not in the public domain.

Scrutiny committee will be updated as to the current situation on 9th July, including the published MPR % pupils attending Good or Outstanding schools.

Academy conversions

From 1st of May 2019 Cecil Jones has been formally re-brokered from LEGRA Multi Academy Trust to Loxford Multi Academy Trust, following intervention by the Regional Schools Commissioner. Loxford Multi Academy Trust had been undertaking due diligence and work to ensure smooth transfer since first of January 2019, and working very closely with Local Authority Officers.

Young people not in employment education or training (NEET) and unknown

NEET/ Not Known combined

For May 2019 our **combined NEET and Not Known figure was 3.7%**, this is the first time the authority has moved into the 1st quintile for this measurement. When compared to May 2018, our figure was 8.0% and we were in the 5th quintile. The improvement over this past year to this point is extremely significant.

Not Known

For May 2019 our NK figure was **1.3%**, this is a staggering improvement on May 2018 where our figure was **5.7%** putting the Council in the 5th quintile, we are now in the 2nd for this individual measure. This improvement is even more impressive due to the sustained low level of NEETs from May 2018, we would usually expect a rise in NEETs as the NK's decrease.

SEN

Southend's rank out of 152 authorities in SEN participation (The percentage of young people aged 16-17 with an SEN that are participating in Education and Training) has continually improved over the past 3 years, from 87th in 2017, to 44th in 2018 and finally just 4th in 2019. We are also ranked 1st on SEN unknowns which is a vast improvement on May 2018 where we ranked 134th.

Y12/13 Looked after/in care:

May 18: 24.2% NEET, 3% Not Known (out of a cohort of 33)

May 19: 20.5% NEET, 0% Not Known (out of a cohort of 39)

Outcomes for Southend's looked after children have improved since May 2018 when 27% were NEET or Not Known (meaning that 73% were in employment, education or training), compared to 20.5% in May 2019. This means that we currently have 79.5% of our Y12/13 Looked after or in care young people in employment, education or training. No national LA data is published for this measure so benchmarking is not possible.

ISOS

The Council has commissioned a national research partnership, ISOS, to undertake a major piece of work on inclusion in our schools. ISOS have conducted similar work at national and local level. They will undertake visits to schools and colleges, speak with pupils and parents concerning their experiences of "inclusion", in effect answering the question "are the right children receiving the right education in the right school?" This agenda will allow

members to consider the degree to which all schools share a collective purpose for the education of all learners in the Borough rather than those only at their own school, and fits well with the new OFSTED framework due to be implemented in September. The full report will be available to members towards the end of the Autumn Term 2019.

Three Secondary School Project

Council previously approve one off expenditure to support the three vulnerable secondary schools in their journey to become good. Following a meeting between officers, the Headteachers and their Trusts, which was also attended by the Regional Schools Commissioner, funding of £100K will allocated according to the particular focus of each school that would move them closer to Good. Whilst all three schools are academies, and therefore responsible for their own school improvement, it is both unusual and brave of the Council to directly support their improvement. In doing so, the Council has shown its determination to ensure that over time all schools are Good or Outstanding. Each of the three schools has submitted a costed plan articulating both how they intend to use the funding, and importantly how the impact on their improvement will be measured. Due to the timing of OFSTED inspections, it is not likely that any of the three schools will be inspected this financial year.

4. Other Options

N/A

5. Reasons for Recommendations

N/A

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

The Schools Progress report links directly to the following Southend 2050 ambition themes and outcomes:

Pride and Joy

- There is a tangible sense of pride in the place and local people are actively, and knowledgeably, talking up Southend-on-Sea

Safe and Well

- People in all parts of the Borough feel safe and secure
- Southenders agree that people from different backgrounds are valued and get on well together
- The benefits of community connection are evident as more people come together to help, support and spend time with each other

Opportunity and Prosperity

- Our children are school and life ready and our workforce is skilled and job ready.

- In addition, this report contributes to the Council's stated ambition that all schools will be good or outstanding.

6.2 Financial Implications

The work currently undertaken by school improvement is covered by the core staffing budget and the SLAs with the teaching schools namely the primary teaching school alliance and SETSA

6.3 Legal Implications

none

6.4 People Implications

none

6.5 Property Implications

none

6.6 Consultation

N/A

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

Equality impact assessments have been completed for both major strategies that link to this progress report, namely the grammar school strategy and the pupil premium strategy.

6.8 Risk Assessment

N/A

6.9 Value for Money

N/A

6.10 Community Safety Implications

N/A

6.11 Environmental Impact

N/A

7. Background Papers

No additional back ground papers have been used to prepare this document. This report does take account of OFSTED inspection reports published by Ofsted which can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted>

8. Appendices

Number and proportion of 16 and 17 year olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) or whose activity is not known for Southend and Nationally

	Dec16/Jan17/Feb17 average		Dec17/Jan18/Feb18 average		Dec18/Jan19/Feb19 average	
Southend-on-Sea	350	9.0%	280	7.3%	190	4.9%
England	69,540	6.0%	68,070	6.0%	61,830	5.5%
SN average	541	6.0%	584	7.2%	502	5.7%

