

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Report of Executive Director for Children and Public
Health

to

Cabinet

on

25th February 2020

Agenda
Item No.

Report prepared by: Brin Martin, Director of Education and
Early Years

Annual Education Report

People Scrutiny Committee

Executive Councillor: Councillor Courtenay
A Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

This report is to make members aware of the availability of the Annual Education Report (AER) 2018/19.

2. Recommendations

- a. That Cabinet notes and approves the new digital format for the AER
- b. That Cabinet approve the report and recognise the very positive outcomes for learners across all Key Stages
- c. That Cabinet agrees that in future years the AER will form part of the normal annual reporting framework

3. Background

In previous years the Council has published a detailed paper document on the retrospective performance for learners in Southend based upon the previous academic year's outcomes. These outcomes are not validated by the Department for Education nationally until early in the next calendar year. In reality, this has meant that the AER is published once a year, some nine months after the summer outcomes are formally validated.

Whilst the report has previously been detailed, its frequency and usefulness to both Members and members of the public has been limited by its publication date. The decision was made to make the AER more accessible through a live digital format, whilst still retaining the same key headline information.

However, for the last three years, a separate and indicative report on the summer outcomes has been presented to Cabinet in early September each year, and through far

more regular and detailed summaries contained in the School Progress Reports submitted to each People Scrutiny Committee as additional data becomes available.

4. Other Options

In future years, it is recommended that the reporting of Borough outcomes for schools is built into the Council's performance framework, and that the AER is featured as part of Smart Southend. In this way, live reporting will allow Members and members of the public the most current and up to date live data sets that are available at that time, and where national updates are provided this is automatically linked to the AER.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

Irrespective of the format of the report, recognition of the very strong performance of Southend Schools should be celebrated. It is hoped that the new AER will allow more people to access their achievements.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

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

6.2 Financial Implications

Traditionally the compilation of the paper AER has taken a significant number of days from the Data and Performance Team, and indeed in previous iterations consultant time to draw the report together. The new format, whilst still compiled by the team is considerably shorter and more cost effective, in terms of printing costs.

6.3 Legal Implications

None

6.4 People Implications

The same degree of scrutiny will be made available through People Scrutiny Committee.

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

None required

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

Not applicable, although the report and the data sets that underpin it intrinsically considers in detail the performance of groups by gender, SEND, deprivation and ethnicity.

6.8 Risk Assessment

None required

6.9 Value for Money

See 6.2 above

6.10 Community Safety Implications

Not applicable

6.11 Environmental Impact

Not applicable

7. Background Papers

None

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – [Hyperlink to the AER and screen shots of two pages.](#)