

By: Mike Whiting, Cabinet member for Education, Learning and Skills

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To: Cabinet – 11 June 2012

Subject: Bold Steps for Education

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report sets out Kent County Council's, Education, Learning and Skills vision, priorities and improvement targets to 2015.

Recommendations Members are asked to:

- (i) endorse the Education, Learning and Skills' Vision and Priorities for Improvement, in order to create the conditions in which pupils experience the best teaching and learning, so that:
- excellence is promoted across the system and we have more good and outstanding schools;
 - we commission and provide sufficient school places of good quality;
 - educational standards improve and every child and young person in Kent meets their full potential; and
 - every young person benefits from a broad range of pathways to further learning and employment, both for their own achievement and future employability and for the success of the Kent economy.
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1. Introduction

1.1 The Delivering Bold Steps for Kent: Education, Learning and Skills Vision and Priorities for Improvement document (attached) details why education and training needs to be transformed in order to improve outcomes in Kent and keep pace with the most successful nations in the world in terms of educational performance. The ambitions and targets for improvement set out in the document promote and champion educational excellence and support the drive towards ensuring that Kent becomes one of the best places in the country to be educated.

2. Background

2.1 The world is changing fast, learning is being transformed in a digital age, expectations are rising and the importance of learning for future personal, social and economic wellbeing has never been greater. Those

countries that are developing fastest are achieving their growth through education and by equipping young people with the skills for life long learning and employability. In order to keep pace, we need to transform the way we do our education business in Kent.

3. Bold Steps for Kent

3.1 The strategic priorities for Education Learning and Skills are set out in the Bold Steps document, attached, and are based on a careful analysis of current performance and challenging expectations for future improvements. They are deliberately ambitious but achievable. They depend on the local authority working in a very systematic and focused way to secure school improvement, and a county wide strategic approach to achieve continuous improvement by engaging all schools in constructive partnership and collaborative arrangements.

3.2 During the course of the Autumn Term 2011, discussions were held with Headteachers, governors and other partners at a range of meetings to identify where we are and where we need to be, in terms of local, national and international performance. From this series of conversations we have been able to establish a good level of shared ambition and agreed a range of rapid priority improvements to achieve by 2015. These are detailed in the attached document, as are the headline steps that will need to be taken to get there.

4. Monitoring

4.1 Sitting beside Bold Steps for Education are the ELS business plans containing specific targets and milestones from 2012 to 2015, which will deliver on the vision. Those milestones and performance targets will form the basis of the monitoring process and a performance framework relating to progress on all the targets will be considered regularly by the Education Cabinet Committee, and an annual report on progress provided for Cabinet.

5. Recommendations

5.1 Members are asked to:

endorse the Education, Learning and Skills' Vision and Priorities for Improvement, in order to create the conditions in which pupils experience the best teaching and learning, so that:

- excellence is promoted across the system and we have more good and outstanding schools;
- we commission and provide sufficient school places of good quality
- educational standards improve and every child and young person in Kent meets their full potential; and
- every young person benefits from a broad range of pathways to further learning and employment, both for their own achievement and future employability and for the success of the Kent economy.

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Background Documents

Bold Steps for Kent