

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning and Skills Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills
To:	Scrutiny Committee – 24 October 2012
Subject	Key Stage 2 Attainment Select Committee - Update.
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary	This report identifies the initial outcomes of the actions to implement the Educational Attainment Select Committee recommendations and the further actions planned.
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1. Introduction

1.1 The Educational Attainment Select Committee review was established on 3 February 2011. The committee was chaired by Cllr Chris Wells. The purpose of this committee was to examine the reasons for variations in KS2 performance of all Kent schools with a focus to those schools in areas of deprivation

1.2 The committee established the following terms of reference;

- a) To examine levels of attainment at KS2 by reviewing the performance of all schools at a district level. This will include the identification of schools in areas of deprivation in each district. These schools will have the highest levels of FSM and IMD. It will also include a review of those schools with 2 or more years below the national floor target of 55% for combined English and Maths and those schools with a 3 year declining or improving trend.
- b) To gain an understanding of the nationally agreed factors that contribute to differential achievement in deprived areas and how those factors impact on children's individual attainment and on overall school performance.
- c) To explore what measures have been put in place in schools and their surrounding communities to mitigate the effects of disadvantage or low attainment and consider their effectiveness. To explore the factors that have enabled some schools within individual districts to have broken the link between deprivation and poor attainment.
- d) To propose any additional action the Select Committee believes would be helpful in raising attainment either across Kent generally or in individual districts.

1.3 On 24th October 2012 the Educational Attainment Select Committee action plan will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee. The Action Plan is effectively the

school improvement targets contained in the Bold Steps for Education Vision and Strategy.

2. Financial Implications

2.1 The financial implications of the recommendation are that proportional funding from the Education, Quality and Standards service are directed at the delivery of the recommendation.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

3.1 The outcomes of the KS2 Select Committee report are directly related to the ELS Bold Steps priorities and the actions in the ELS Annual Plan agreed by Cabinet on 16 April 2012, which directly supports the ambitions of the recommendation.

4. Summary of the Educational Attainment Action Plan to date

- During the process of the KS2 Scrutiny Committee, the ELS Directorate established its vision for Education contained in Bold Steps for Education. This vision reflects the ambitions of the KS2 recommendation. The strategy sets out clear targets for raising pupil attainment and progress in all phases for children and young people in Kent.
- The school improvement strategy has targeted support to the schools that need to improve most, with a focus on improving leadership and the quality of teaching and learning. The combination of challenge and support, with rigorous monitoring of progress, has been highly effective in bringing about rapid improvement in a number of schools.
- There has already been significant improvement in KS2 performance in 2012, when level 4 attainment including English and mathematics improved to 78% from 72% in 2011 and the number of schools performing below the floor standard reduced to 23 compared to 70 Primary schools in 2011. Members will be aware of this through the presentation to the Education Cabinet Committee by the Corporate Director. A full report of results in 2012 will be presented to the ECC in November.
- Whilst significant improvement has been made at KS2 in 2012 there are further ambitions for 2013 through to 2015 and targets have been adjusted to increase this ambition to reflect the progress achieved in 2012.

5. Conclusion

5.1 A number of key actions have already been taken resulting in significant improvement in KS2 in 2012 and the attached action plan reflects some key actions that have been taken to ensure that the progress in 2012 is secured and enhanced in 2013 through to 2015.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:-

- note the improvement in KS2 standards in 2012

Background documents

Bold Steps for Education

http://www.kent.gov.uk/news_and_events/news_archive/2012/may/bold_steps_for_education.aspx

ELS Standards and School Improvement Annual Plan 2012/3

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/s31394/Item%205%20-%20Business%20Plan%2012-13%20-%20Final.pdf>

Report to Education Cabinet Committee – 12 September 2012:- School Performance
2012 National Curriculum Test and Public Examination

<http://kent590w3:9070/documents/s33902/Item%20E1j%20-%20Tunbridge%20Wells.pdf>

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