

By:	Mike Whiting, Cabinet Member for Education, Learning & Skills Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning & Skills
To:	Education Cabinet Committee – 21 November 2012
Subject	ELS Bold Steps Business Plan Mid - Year Monitoring 2012-13 and ELS Bold Steps Business Planning 2013-14
Classification:	Unrestricted

Summary:	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) provide Members with an update on progress at the mid-term point of the 2012/13 Business Plans for services within Education, Learning and Skills (ELS) Directorate; (ii) provide an updated Education Bold Steps document which details the headline business planning priorities for the ELS Directorate for 2013/14. Members are invited to consider the proposed priorities and targets in order to influence the development of the draft 2013/14 Business Plans that will be used by ELS Service Heads to prepare their substantive Business Plans for your consideration at the January 2013 meeting.
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1. Introduction

1.1 Effective business planning is a pre-requisite for any organisation to ensure a clear focus on delivering agreed organisational priorities. Education Cabinet Committee plays an important role in shaping and influencing business plans, before they are formally approved by Cabinet in March 2013.

2 Education Bold Steps Business Plan – Mid Term Monitoring 2012/13

2.1 Education Cabinet Committee is asked to review ELS service areas progress against Education Bold Steps (considered by this Committee on 9 May 2012). The Bold Steps report set out Kent County Council's (KCC), Education, Learning and Skills (ELS) vision, priorities and improvement targets to 2015.

2.2 There are seven strategic services in ELS: Standards and School Improvement; Skills and Employability; Inclusion (formerly Advocacy and Entitlement); Fair Access; Educational Psychology; Provision Planning and Operations and Special Educational Needs and Placement. Each service areas priorities, achievements and issues are detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

3. Education Bold Steps Business Planning 2013/14

3.1 KCC's current Budget Consultation and Bold Steps report to County Council in October 2012 provide a helpful, light touch framework for discussions on how ELS can contribute to the delivery of Bold Steps for Kent.

3.2 We are in the process of updating Education Bold Steps Vision and Priorities for Improvement document. This refreshed set of priorities and targets to promote and champion education excellence and support the drive towards ensuring that Kent becomes one of the best places in the country to be educated, builds upon the significant progress that has been made since the document was published. This progress is reflected in the key achievements detailed in the ELS service area mid-year monitoring sheets (see Appendix 1).

3.3 As a result of this progress and to ensure appropriate stretch and challenge, Education Bold Steps priorities and targets have been reviewed and revised, in light of progress to date. Education Cabinet Committee will be invited to consider the updated Education Bold Steps priorities and targets document as a way forward, to enable ELS service heads to prepare SMART priorities in their detailed draft business plans for 2013/14. These plans will be considered at the January 2013 meeting of this Committee.

4. Recommendations

4.1 Education Cabinet Committee is invited to:

- (i) note the progress being made in delivering Education Bold Steps from the Mid-term monitoring sheets of the 2012/13 ELS business plans, attached as Appendix 1.

5. Contact details

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Background report

Bold Steps for Education:
<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/jobs/els-bold-steps.pdf>

Appendix 1

Education, Learning and Skills Directorate
Business Plan Mid-Year Reporting 2012/13

Service Area: Special Educational Needs and Placement

Priority:	Progress
1 Provide schools with feedback about their intervention strategies following a referral for statutory assessment.	Amber
2 By 2015, 95% of SEN statutory assessments will be completed within timescales.	Amber
3 Ensure the needs of more Kent children are met in their locality.	Amber
4 Pupils with statements of SEN will be making good progress.	Green
5 Appropriate controls are in place to enable effective budgeting and monitoring.	Amber
6 Reduction in the expenditure on SEN transport.	Amber

Key Achievements:

- More schools are using Specialist Teaching Service Early Support before assessment; 65% increase in open cases (1070 compared to 712 at Sept 2011). Statutory assessment referrals are 7% lower than 2011 (from 95 to 88 in August/September 2012).
- Currently 85.4% of SEN statutory assessments have been completed within timescales; an increase from 70.0% as at August 2012.
- We have improved Annual Reviews to record progress and attainment levels. KS1 to KS2 outcomes data evidences SEN pupils making 2 levels of progress.
- As part of a transport demand management approach, we have commenced procurement to identify a partner to engage parents in more cost effective travel e.g. personal budgets and independent travel training. We are on target to compare tenders by mid November with appointment from January, and complete engagement by March 2013.
- The local authority' participation in SE7 Pathfinder is piloting proposed statutory changes to the SEN framework anticipated from Sept 2014, through the passage of a Children & Families Bill.

Issues:

- Completion of Statutory Assessments performance is below 2015 target (95%). Quality assurance to analyse delay and take remedial action will be completed by March 2013.
- Pressure on special school capacity continues to result in non maintained sector placements. Currently there are 364 out county special school placements. The target of 3% reduction has not been achieved. Actual performance represents an increase of 19% on the April 2012 position. 114 additional places in KCC schools are being commissioned for 2013 (76 x YR-Y11 and 38 x Y12+).

- Green - Completed or expected to be fully completed before the end of the year
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Priority:	Progress
1 Increase positive learner progressions through the delivery of an appropriate curriculum.	Green
2 Achieve full participation for 18 year olds by 2015 with a focus on employability skills to ensure that 18 year olds move to higher levels of attainment and employment.	Amber
3 Ensure that all learners are engaged and maximising potential by giving targeted support, that is cost effective and quality, to participate and progress.	Green

Key Achievements:

- A draft 14-24 Learning, Skills and Employment Strategy has been published and is out for consultation with employers and other key partners. The final agreed strategy will be published in January 2013.
- Apprenticeships are increasingly becoming the skill option of choice for young people and employers, reflected in a 24% increase in Apprenticeship starts in Kent over the 12 months August 2011 – July 2012. Kent outperformed all other Local Authorities in the South East.
 - 16-18 year olds 2715 Apprenticeship starts (16% increase)
 - 18-25 year olds 3355 Apprenticeship starts (13% increase)
 - 25 year olds plus 4741 Apprenticeship starts (39% increase)

Issues:

- It will become increasingly important to maintain progression pathways at 16 when there is some uncertainty about FE providers delivering provision. KCC is now re-aligning some elements of the service work programme to address this development. In particular the difficulties faced by K College provide a threat to Raising Participation.
- The development of employability skills poses the challenge of changing how institutions view the outcomes for young people. To support the attainment of young people is not enough. The broader skills of employability need to be developed. This will require the development of new approaches, both pre 16 and post 16. This work is commencing in Term 1 with Key Training piloting work in 6 schools, with a further 12 to begin in Term 2.

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Service Area: Educational Psychology

Priority:	Progress
1 Provision of Statutory Action psychological advice within expected timescales and support for the SEN Assessment decision making process.	Green
2 Provide a high quality core offer of service delivery to vulnerable children and young people through agreed LA processes.	Green
3 Prevention / early intervention to address children and young people's needs through the development and delivery of traded services.	Green
4 Timely and effective support for critical incidents.	Green
5 Development and delivery of specific psychological skills which can be deployed as part of enhanced/traded services.	Green

Key Achievements:

- The service has completed 99% of Statutory Action Assessment Advice to the local authority on the needs of children and young people within agreed timescales (440 from April – September 2012).
- The service is successfully developing its commissioned / trading element of service delivery, with 222 schools having agreed an SLA with the service since April 2012 (amounting to £524k).

Issue:

- To secure the recruitment and supply of appropriately qualified staff, the service is investing in trainee Educational Psychologists in addition to establishing a pool of locum EPs, who will be available through Kent Top Temps.

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Priority:	Progress
1 School Choice and access – develop and maintain a Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17.	Green
2 Improve the safety and management of the Road Crossing Patrol Service.	Green
3 Outdoor Education – to improve IAG support for school staff through CPD, for learning opportunities outside the classroom and ensure that young people are safeguarded appropriately when undertaking outdoor activities and trips.	Green
4 Long term Spatial Planning – provide direction to KCC and District colleagues regarding future education infrastructure needed to support growth.	Amber
5 Secure Developer Contributions for Essential Infrastructure, specifically demand for additional pupil provision.	Amber

Key Achievements:

- A Commissioning Plan for Education Provision 2012-17 has been published and the short-term need for places in mainstream schools has been detailed and addressed. 1008 extra Year R places were delivered in 39 schools for September 2012.
- A new medium term forecasting system has been developed with the University of Leeds and is being trialled. This fits with KCC's corporate approach to forecasting.

Issues:

- The Service is working with KCC colleagues to ensure that District Councils set their Community Infrastructure Levy at a level appropriate to meet future education and infrastructure requirements.
- The current economic circumstances are leading District Councils and Developers to carefully consider the viability of housing sites and seek to drive down infrastructure costs. KCC is clearly articulating the need for appropriate Developer contributions to deliver future school provision.

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Priority:	Progress
1 Improve young people's attendance by reducing persistent absence to 1.5% in primary and 5% in secondary by 2015.	Green
2 Reduce the number of permanent exclusions from 252 in 2010/11 to fewer than 50 by 2015.	Green
3 Identification, travelling, placement and monitoring of Children Missing from (suitable) Education.	Green
4 Ensure all children registered as receiving Elective Home Education are offered support.	Green
5 Ensure that all pupils known to the Integrated Youth Offending Service (IYS) meet their full potential.	Green
6 Provide information, advice and support to all requesting parents in appropriate timeframes through the Parent Partnership Service.	Green
7 Provide a range of support options to ensure the best possible outcomes for children and young people from minority ethnic and bilingual backgrounds (including Gypsy Roma Traveller).	Green
8 Through the Specialist Teaching Service and Portage, provide early intervention and a range of support options to ensure the best outcomes for children with SEN/D aged 0-19.	Green
9 During the PRU Review, improve and strengthen the quality of the service offered.	Green

Key Achievements:

- A Kent Virtual School for Gypsy Roma Traveller pupils is nearly established, ahead of schedule, to help deliver better educational outcomes. This development is one of only three national pilots.
- Good progress is being made towards achieving the 2015 target of reducing persistent absence in primary schools (from 3.3% in 2010/11 to 2.6% in 2011/12) and secondary schools (from 7.0% in 2010/11 to 4.9% in 2011/12).

Issue:

- Timescales may need to be changed to outsource the Parent Partnership Service in 2013/14 rather than 2012/13, in order to align with future proposals for the FSC Directorate's Advocacy Services and enable Members to fully consider a wider proposal for a combined outsourced service offering information, advice and guidance for parents.

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Service Area: Standards and School Improvement

Priority:	Progress
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1	KS2 attainment to improve to at least 80% of pupils attaining L4 in English and Maths by 2015	Green
2	KS4 attainment to improve to at least 70% of pupils attaining 5 good GCSEs inc. English & Maths	Green
3	90% of secondary and 95% of primary schools to be performing above the floor standards by 2015	Green
4	Achievement gaps at KS2 and 4 will be less than the Narrowing Achievement gap figures and vulnerable pupils will be achieving better progress than similar groups nationally	Amber
5	No KCC schools to be in an OFSTED category	Red
6	All Special Schools and at least 85% of primary and secondary schools will be judged as good or outstanding	Amber
7	In nearly all schools teaching will be consistently good	Amber
8	No LACs will be excluded, less than 10% will be persistently absent and their attainment will be in line with targets in the Kent Pledge	Amber
9	Reduce number of pupils requiring a Statement of SEN; 95% of SEN statutory assessments will be completed within statutory timescales and pupils with Statements will achieve above national average outcomes	Amber

Key Achievements:

- Kent Challenge contributed to an increase in Key Stage 2 attainment of 6% (72% in 2011 to 78% in 2012). The gap between our top statistical neighbour at KS2 and Kent has now reduced from 7% in 2011 to 3% in 2012. Key Stage 4 attainment has improved to 61% in 2012. This is a 3% improvement on 2011 and only 1% behind the target.
- 91.4% of maintained primary schools in Kent are above the floor standard. This is well on the way to the target of 95% in 2015. 83% of all Kent secondary schools are achieving above the floor standard in 2012 against a target of 90% in 2015. There are currently 23 primary schools below the 60% floor standard and 17 secondary schools below the 40% floor standard.

Issue(s):

- Progress will need to be accelerated if we are to achieve the Bold Steps target for more schools to be judged good or outstanding by 2015 (at least 85% of primary and secondary schools and 100% of special schools being judged as good or outstanding). Currently the position is: primary schools – 57.2%; secondary schools – 70.7%; special schools – 75%.
- Progress needs to be accelerated in respect of the number of Kent schools in an OFSTED category if we are to achieve the Bold Steps target of no schools in category by 2015. Currently we have: primary - 17; secondary - 3 and special schools - 1 in an OFSTED category. (IMPORTANT NOTE: The Secretary of State is now expecting, through the DfE brokers, that all schools who go into an Ofsted category from now on will become sponsored academies. Therefore schools that do go into category will be an academy within 12 months).
- Priority 4 achievement gap progress in Key Stage 2:
 - FSM Gaps Kent; 22.8%(narrowed from 25% in 2011)
 - LAC Gaps Kent; 41.7% (widened from 37% in 2011)
 - SEND Gaps Kent; 48.5% (narrowed from 51% in 2011)
 - No national data is available for a comparison
- Currently the percentage of good teaching recorded from Inspection information is: Primary – 60%: Secondary- 70.7%: Special- 83% against the target of nearly all schools teaching to be consistently good.

- Progress on Priority 8 is:
 - 6.64% LAC permanent exclusion (as percentage of all exclusion) in 2011/12 (2010/11 figure - 5.98%)
 - 0.44% LAC permanent exclusion (as a percentage of average number of LAC in year) in 2011/12 (2010/11 figure – 0.48%)
 - Of the 3154 LAC pupils, 279 received a number of fixed term exclusions totalling 711.

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Service Area: Fair Access

Priority:	Progress
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1	Determine statutory admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled (VC) schools in Kent and agree the co-ordinated admissions scheme.	Green
2	Monitor the legality of Admission Arrangements for all Kent schools.	Green
3	Redesign service to ensure the changing responsibilities resulting from the new Admissions Code are able to be accommodated in business practice.	Green
4	Develop an In Year Fair Access Protocol for Kent securing agreement from the majority of schools.	Green
5	Take a robust stance to the changes to transport policy and effectively manage the negative impact this will have on the LA.	Amber

Key Achievements:

- The Local Authority is on track to agree and deliver a co-ordinated admissions scheme with all Kent mainstream schools, effectively communicating with schools about the hand back of certain admissions processes.
- On-line admissions take up is at 90% for Secondary - up 3% on the previous year and 93% for Primary - also up over 3% on the previous year.
- The Home to School Transport Policy changes were delivered on time and expect to return the projected savings.

Issues:

- The Transport Policy changes have resulted in some parental dissatisfaction which is being managed on a localised basis. There is a danger that if Members decide to amend the transport policy to accommodate some localised pressures, this will result in a consistency of approach being demanded across the county which will undoubtedly prevent the projected savings being realised.
- There are pressures in certain year groups, in certain parts of the county, for In Year Admissions which we are seeking to address with ELS colleagues in Provision Planning.

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