

From: Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform
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To: Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee – 21 January 2016

Subject: Cabinet Members' priorities for business plans 2016-17

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Division: All

Summary:

This report presents the priorities of the Cabinet Members' for Education and Health Reform, Children's Services and Community Services for the Education and Young People's Services (EYPS) directorate business plan 2016-17, so that this Cabinet Committee can comment on them before the business plan for the directorate is drafted.

Recommendation:

The Committee is asked to comment on the Cabinet Members' priorities for the EYPS directorate business plan 2016-17.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 On 10 September 2015, Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee received the annual report on business planning and approved the proposed process for developing the 2016-17 business plans.
- 1.2 The paper approved by County Council on 10 December 2015 about embedding strategic commissioning as business as usual also reinforces the changes to business plans for 2016-17 to ensure that they support and strengthen the authority's strategic commissioning approach.
- 1.3 The review of the 2015-16 business planning process found that although they reflect the priorities of Cabinet Members, in some cases these priorities were captured mid-way through the process, leading to redrafting.
- 1.4 To address this, the proposal for business planning in 2016-17 included a commitment for Cabinet Members to identify the top priorities that they wish to see reflected in the 2016-17 directorate business plans before the

drafting process begins. This will ensure that they are incorporated into and shape the development of the directorate business plans.

2. CABINET MEMBERS' PRIORITIES

- 2.1 Cabinet Members each took part in a 1:1 meeting with the Director of Strategy, Policy and Assurance to identify their top priorities during October 2015. They identified both priorities for their own portfolio, and a number of cross-cutting priorities that apply more widely across Kent County Council (KCC).
- 2.2 The priorities that each Cabinet Member identified were aggregated and discussed at Leader's Group in early November 2015, where they were slightly amended and collectively agreed.
- 2.3 The full list of priorities identified by the Cabinet Members is provided in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The priorities that will need to be reflected in the directorate business plan that this Cabinet Committee will receive are detailed below:

Cabinet Member priorities that will be reflected in the Education and Young People's Services Directorate Business Plan 2016-17:

- Continue to increase take up of free places for two year olds
- Ensure school sufficiency of places as set out in the Education Commissioning Plan and work with Government to ensure new Free Schools are opened where they are most needed and make the most of Government funding
- Continue implementation of the SEND Strategy including the Special schools review, effective implementation of EHCPs, work with CCGs to deliver enhanced speech and language therapy, reduce out of county placements, delivery and expansion of SEND places and new SEN transport through route optimisation
- Deliver higher levels of Good and Outstanding schools, with improved performance at each key stage, and work with schools and the Kent Association of Headteachers (KAH) to strengthen school to school support and collaboration
- Develop more school sponsorship arrangements for new and under-performing schools and more Kent multi-academy trusts
- Development of options to deliver an Education Trust that are wide-ranging and of sufficient scale
- Deliver the NEETs strategy, address skills tracking and structural issues including working with employers and training providers
- Further commercialisation and income generation through EduKent
- Further embed the PREVENT strategy in schools and other settings and across the council
- Achieve all the targets set out in the Early Help Strategy and Three Year Plan which include key outcomes for Youth Justice, Youth Services, Children's Centres and the Troubled Families programme

- Ensure Community Learning and Skills, as a commissioned service, delivers its targets and other priorities set out in the business plan.

2.5 As well as the priorities identified specifically for the Directorate, there will be links and cross-over with the priorities identified for other Directorates, so Directorate Management Teams will be provided with the entire list as shown at Appendix 1 so they can reflect these links as appropriate.

2.6 In addition, Cabinet Members have identified a number of priorities around the way in which all Directorates need to work as we continue on our journey to become a strategic commissioning authority. These will inform the development of the directorate business plans, and will be put into practice in the implementation of the business plans during 2016-17. The priorities around ways of working reinforce the approach we have already set out in the Strategic Statement and Commissioning Framework. They are:

- Strengthen commissioning, procurement and contract management
- Ensure information requirements are clear in all contracts
- Better cross-support between Directorates
- Communicate better externally – messages to be linked to strategy
- Stronger evidence base for transformation decisions and better engagement with the public on the big service changes required

3. Next Steps in Drafting Directorate Business Plans

3.1 EYPS Directorate will now begin drafting the business plan 2016-17 with support from Strategy, Policy and Assurance.

3.2 The draft directorate business plan will be brought to this Cabinet Committee on 17 March 2016 for comments before it is approved.

3.3 The timescales for the development, approval and publication of the directorate business plan 2016-17 is in Table 1 below:

Activity	Timescale
Development and agreement of Cabinet Members' priorities	Sept - Nov 2015
Development of directorate and divisional priorities by DMTs	Dec 2015 - Jan 2016
Drafting of directorate business plans including all the required information including approved County Council budget	Feb - Mar 2016
Draft directorate business plans to Cabinet Committees	March 2016 round of meetings
Directorate business plans finalised taking into account Cabinet Committee comments	April – May 2016
Final collective approval of directorate business plans by Cabinet Members and publication on the KCC website	May 2016

Table 1: Timescales for development of 2016-17 directorate business plans

3.4 Service level business plans 2016-17 will be developed alongside the Directorate business plan 2016-17 and approved in time to be published on KNet in May 2016.

4. Appendices:

Appendix 1: Cabinet Members' priorities for the Directorate Business Plans 2016-17

5. Background Documents:

None

6. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Committee is asked to comment on the Cabinet Members' priorities for the EYPS directorate business plan 2016-17.

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