

From: Mr Roger Gough, Cabinet Member, Children, Young People and Education

Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Education

To: Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee – 7 September 2017

Subject: Education Services Company – Progress Update

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: All Divisions

Summary: This report provides Members with an update on the implementation of the proposals for an Education Services Company, following the Cabinet decision taken on 27 March 2017 to proceed with implementation.

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the progress provided in this report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides Members with an update on the implementation of the proposals for an Education Services Company, following the Cabinet decision taken on 27 March 2017 to proceed with implementation.
- 1.2 Significant progress has been made in recent months in working towards establishing and launching the Education Services Company in early 2018. Moving forward through implementation, CYPE Cabinet Committee will be provided with regular updates highlighting the key activities being undertaken to set up this exciting venture.

2. Background

- 2.1 The new service delivery model will enable KCC to provide effective and sustainable services for schools and settings, retaining a strong focus on improving educational outcomes, delivered in strong partnership with Kent schools and early years settings.
- 2.2 The Full Business Case, with detailed financial analysis, was developed and approved by Cabinet to establish an Education Services Company, wholly-owned by KCC and operated in partnership with schools and other

stakeholders. It was proposed that the new company would provide statutory and traded services with greater freedom to generate more income within Kent and beyond, supporting KCC's delivery of its statutory services.

2.3 The services in scope for transfer to the new company are:

- Early Years and Childcare
- Educational Psychology
- Education Safeguarding
- Outdoor Education (excluding Hardelot)
- Schools Financial Services
- School Improvement, including Governor Services
- Skills and Employability
- EduKent – marketing and billing functions

2.4 The Full Business Case was approved by KCC Cabinet on 27 March 2017.

3. Establishing an Interim Executive Management Team

3.1 There have been a number of key developments in recent months, most notably, with the recruitment of an interim company executive team, who will lead on key activities for setting up the company and support the implementation.

3.2 The interim Director of Education Quality and Standards has become interim Chief Executive for the company, while the recruitment process takes place to recruit the permanent appointment in September. An internal appointment has been made to the role of Director of Organisation and Business Development. An external recruitment process is also taking place for the Director of Finance post.

3.3 Steps have also been taken to set up the company board, by appointing an interim independent Chair, who will lead the board on a shadow basis and will support the recruitment of non-executive directors.

3.4 At the same time, the permanent positions of Chief Executive and Finance Director and the process to recruit the non-executive directors (NEDs), will be completed in September. .

4. Defining the Contractual and Commissioning Arrangements

4.1 Together with the interim company executive team, the Director of Education Planning and Access and lead commissioner for KCC, has, with our legal advisors, started to develop the contract (and its schedules) between KCC and the Education Services Company.

4.2 KCC has robust governance and other controls in place for the new company, including a clear commissioning specification and contract. KCC can hold the company to account for delivering against key performance

indicators and educational outcomes, whilst allowing the company the freedom to be innovative and to grow sustainably.

- 4.3 In addition to the work to develop the contractual arrangements, the commissioning arrangements are being strengthened through the recruitment of two new roles of Commissioning Manager and Commissioning Officer to support this process in the future.

5. Setting up the Commissioning and Stakeholder Partnership Board

- 5.1 A new Commissioning and Stakeholder Partnership Board has been set up and the first meeting took place on Thursday 6 July 2017. The meeting was chaired by the Cabinet Member. As well as the senior officers from CYPE, representatives were in attendance from stakeholders including schools, early years providers, governors, employers and further education provision.
- 5.2 As this was the first meeting of the group, the focus was on discussing and agreeing to the important role that the board will play in ensuring that there is strong oversight from KCC and stakeholders in how education services are delivered in Kent going forward.
- 5.3 The next meeting of the Commissioning and Stakeholder Partnership Board is scheduled for Tuesday 26 September 2017.

6. Developing the Company Identity and Brand

- 6.1 Over the last few months, staff workshops have taken place to support the development of the company's market position and values. Leading on from this, the company identity and brand will be developed, a new name agreed and the final decisions will be made through the project Steering Group and the Cabinet Member.

7. Website Development

- 7.1 As part of the implementation project, a review of the existing websites for in scope services has taken place. The company will create a new website, replacing the existing EduKent website, with the intention of integrating existing websites over a period of time.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1 Good progress is being made in setting up the new company, which we expect to go live in the first part of 2018.

Recommendation(s):

The Children's, Young Persons and Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note the progress provided in this report.

9. Background Documents - None

10. Contact details

<p>Report author: Penny Pemberton</p> <p>Job title: Project Manager</p> <p>Telephone number: 03000 416514</p> <p>Email address: penny.pemberton@kent.gov.uk</p>	<p>Relevant Director and Name: Children, Young People and Education Corporate Director, Patrick Leeson</p> <p>Telephone number: 03000 416384</p> <p>Email address: patrick.leeson@kent.gov.uk</p>
--	--