

From: **Roger Gough, Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform**

Patrick Leeson, Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills

To: **Education Cabinet Committee – 14 March 2014**

Subject: **Education and Young People's Services Directorate Strategic Priorities Statement**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Electoral Division: All

Summary: Service Business Plans are being replaced by an annual Directorate Strategic Priorities Statement for 2014-15, from April 2014. The Statement (attached as an Appendix to this report) provides a guide to the services that make up the Education and Young People's Services Directorate. The Statement also sets out the role, purpose, key directorate priorities, targets and performance measures for 2014-15.

Recommendation: Education Cabinet Committee is invited to note and comment on the key strategic priorities for 2014-15, prior to approval of the Statement by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform and the Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills before the start of the new financial year.

1. Introduction

1.1 The Strategic Priorities Statement is a key element of the new business planning process for 2014-15. The document appended to this report replaces Service business plans with an annual Education and Young People's Services Directorate Strategic Priorities Statement. The Statement will be published online and sets out:

- How the Education and Young People's Directorate contributes to delivering *Bold Steps for Kent and Facing the Challenge: Delivering better Outcomes* for the year ahead
- How the Directorate is organised and who does what
- The key strategic priorities and targets for 2014-15
- The key actions to deliver the priorities and signposting to detailed delivery plans
- The level of resource available e.g budget and FTE establishment)
- The headline workforce development priorities
- The key directorate risks
- A summary of the key performance indicators accompanied by the Directorate Performance Scorecard.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 Facing the Challenge sets out the scale of the transformation that is required across the authority which must be delivered at pace. Accordingly the authority needs to focus its limited resources at activity which supports transformation and the continued delivery of key education and preventative services.
- 2.2 All of the strategic priorities identified within the Directorate Statement will be achieved within the agreed Directorate funding envelope for 2014-15, including the challenging savings and additional income generation targets.

3. Bold Steps for Kent and Policy Framework

- 3.1 The Strategic Priorities set out in the Statement and the accompanying targets set out in the Directorate Performance Scorecard seek to promote and champion education excellence and support the drive towards ensuring that Kent becomes one of the best places in England for education and learning and for children and young people to grow up, learn, develop and achieve.
- 3.2 The strategic ambitions and objectives in Bold Steps for Education require us to ensure all pupils meet their full potential, that we see continuous improvement in pupil attainment and progress: that we close achievement gaps; that there are more good and outstanding early years settings and schools; that we shape education and skills provision around the needs of the Kent economy; and improve services and outcomes for the most vulnerable children and young people in Kent.
- 3.3 We are aiming for outcomes that are very ambitious and challenging. We are determined to pursue them relentlessly and believe we have ways to achieve them. There is a good level of shared ambition with Headteachers, governors and other key agencies and stakeholders to achieve the improvements detailed in the Statement.

4. The Strategic Priorities Statement

- 4.1 The Strategic Priorities Statement describes the key functions and responsibilities of the Education and Young People's Directorate and sets out the priorities and targets for achieving better outcomes for children and young people, as well as improving services for 0-19 year olds and for families.
- 4.2 The context is one of considerable change, which is driven by Kent's own local priorities for transformation and more effective and innovative ways of working as well as national changes of policy and higher expectations for what we should achieve. The necessary savings required of local government are challenging but they also provide the opportunity to develop better ways of doing our business in more efficient ways and at lower cost.
- 4.3 We are driving change and improvement through a number of strategies, for school improvement, for early help and preventative services, for special educational needs and disability, for 14-24 learning and skills, for commissioning new school and child care provision, and for the early years

education and childcare sector. There is less business as usual and more continuous improvement and transformation.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 This strategic statement of priorities attempts to communicate our vision and direction, with strong messages about what we aim to achieve and the ways we need to transform our work in the next year or two.

6. Recommendation

Recommendation:

- 6.1 Education Cabinet Committee is asked to note and comment on the key strategic priorities for 2014-15, prior to approval of the Statement by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform and the Corporate Director for Education, Learning and Skills before the start of the new financial year 2014-15.

7. Background Documents

- 7.1 Delivering Bold Steps for Kent: Education, Learning and Skills Vision and Priorities for Improvement 2014-2017

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/Bold%20Steps%20ELS%20Vision.pdf>

- 7.2. More detailed delivery plans have been set out in the

Early Years and Childcare Strategy,

<http://consultations.kent.gov.uk/consult.ti/EarlyYearsStrategy/consultationHome>

School Improvement Strategy,

14-24 Learning, Employment and Skills Strategy,

http://www.kent.gov.uk/education_and_learning/plans_and_consultations/education_plans.aspx

SEND Strategy

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s41546/Item%206%20-%20SEND%20Strategy.pdf>

Education Commissioning Plan and the project plans

<https://shareweb.kent.gov.uk/Documents/education-and-learning/plans-and-consultations/strategic-plans/Kent%20Education%20Commissioning%20Plan%202013%20-2018%20final.pdf>

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