

Wiltshire Council

Children's Select Committee

6 July 2022

Executive Response to the Final Report of the Disadvantaged Learners Task Group

Purpose of the report

1. To present the response of the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills to the Final Report of the Disadvantaged Learners Task Group.

Background

2. On 8 June the Children's Select Committee endorsed the Final Report of the Task Group.
3. The Committee resolved to refer the following Task Group's recommendations to the relevant Cabinet member for response at the Committee's next meeting on 6 July.

Executive response to the Task Group's recommendations

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| Recommendation No.1 | that the respective Cabinet members for Children's Services, Education and Skills and Public Health ensure that the emerging strategy for Early Years places the first 1001 days as a core principle within the document's development, focusing on uptake in health checks and increasing Early Years take up above 80%. | | |
| Cabinet member | Cllr Laura Mayes/ Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling | Lead Officer | Helean Hughes |
| Executive response | 27. 6.2022 | Accepted | |
| Action | | | Success criteria |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establish a stakeholder group- autumn term 2022• Co-produce an Early Years Strategy with Health, including Public Health, Children's Centres, early years settings, schools, parents, voluntary sector etc• Submit an Expression of Interest to the LGA for bespoke support to create the strategy | | | Acceptance for bespoke support from the LGA is gained Two-year old integrated check is launched across |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update of the integrated two-year old health check; launch in September 22 Promote the two-year old funding | <p>health and education</p> <p>Data shows an increase in uptake of integrated reviews</p> <p>Stakeholder groups are in place for the EY strategy</p> <p>The EY strategy completed, and an implementation plan is in place</p> <p>Two-year old funded places is above 80%</p> |
| Target date | Implementation date |
| March 2023 | June 2023 |

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| Recommendation No.2 | that the emerging Early Years Strategy, to improve outcomes, places quality of teaching as a core principle within the document, further promoting communication, phonics and skills development in the 80% of children taking up placements and, understanding the 20% not attending and their risk in relation to being a future disadvantage learner. | | |
| Cabinet member | Cllr Laura Mayes | Lead Officer | Helean Hughes |
| Executive response | 26.06.22 | Accepted | |
| Action | | | Success criteria |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a stakeholder group- autumn term 2022 Co-produce an Early Years Strategy with Health, including Public Health, Children’s Centres, early years settings, schools, parents, voluntary sector etc Submit and Expression of Interest to the LGA for bespoke support to create the strategy Incorporate the GLD data into the EYs Strategy, and address development areas. Outline in the EY strategy how communication and phonics will be promoted and developed through the different phases of EY (2yrs, 3-4yrs and school age) | | | <p>Improved GLD outcomes in all areas of the curriculum, particular improvement in communication and language</p> <p>Acceptance for bespoke support from the LGA is gained</p> |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The EY strategy to incorporate school improvement work to specifically target improving disadvantaged learner's outcomes in EY • Re-introduce project to support settings with high numbers of disadvantaged two-year-olds. • Promote the two-year old funding vis Children's Centres and Health Visitors | <p>Stakeholder groups are in place for the EY strategy</p> <p>The EY strategy completed, and an implementation plan is in place</p> <p>Project for Disadvantaged two-year olds 'Getting it right for 2 year olds' is supporting settings with high numbers of disadvantaged learners.</p> |
| Target date | |
| March 2023 | |

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| Recommendation No.3 | that the Executive develops and shares with the CSC, before the end of the academic year 2021-22, an expansion plan to increase the number of pupil premium partner schools to ensure further reach for the DL team and the principles it is helping to promote. | | |
| Cabinet member | Cllr Laura Mayes | Lead Officer | Helean Hughes |
| Executive response | 27.06.22 | Accepted | |
| Action | | Success criteria | |
| Produce an information report which outlines the current Pupil Premium Partners structure to be considered by the Executive to ensure a shared understanding of the benefits and practical development steps required to support a sustained expansion of the programme. Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - funding - accountability - roles and responsibilities - process - quality assurance - impact - timescales - selection & deselection process | | By September 2022, an agreed structured and sustainable PP Partner schools' model is in place to improve the reach and engagement of an increasing number of schools | |
| Target date | | | |
| September 2022 | | | |

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| Recommendation No.4 | that the DLs team enhances its feedback loop in relation to all training delivered. Particularly relevant to 'peer to peer' training, this will enable trainers or online materials to evolve to ensure, with confidence, that they address the needs of the schools accessing the support. | | |
| Cabinet member | Cllr Laura Mayes | Lead Officer | Helean Hughes |
| Executive response | 27.06.22 | Accepted | |
| Action | | Success criteria | |
| Work with Pupil Premium Partner schools, and other school leaders/providers, to improve the framework and process for effective school led CPD and training support | | School led training has established entry and exit criteria which identifies the needs of participating schools and allows for feedback | |
| Target date | | | |
| September 2022 | | | |

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| Recommendation No.5 | that further collaboration takes place between the council's SEND and DLs teams to further tailor the council's support of DLs, particularly those with SEND, recognising that quality of teaching is key to both. | | |
| Cabinet member | Cllr Laura Mayes | Lead Officer | Helean Hughes |
| Executive response | 27.06.22 | Accepted | |
| Action | | Success criteria | |
| <p>Regular (termly) opportunity for SEND and DL team to collaborate identified and diarised for 2022/23</p> <p>Group to identify the key 'cross over points' in the current SEND&I strategy and ensure that both strategies reflect the activity from both areas</p> <p>POG to be scheduled to share and reflect on this collaborative area of work</p> <p>DL team to be involved in early conversations about the SEND&I strategy 23-26 to ensure that this area is fully explored and represented as part of this work</p> <p>Links between SEND strategy (particularly priority 2, 4, 5 and 6) and DL strategy will support further collaboration with quality of teaching as a key driver to underpin improvement</p> | | DL & SEND strategy plans are fully aligned, and collaborative work is focused on improving outcomes for PP/SEND pupils | |

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| Target date |
| December 2022 onwards |

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| Recommendation No.6 | that the developing Attendance Strategy produced by the Virtual Schools team seeks input from the Public Health, Early Years and DLs teams and that any lessons learnt are incorporated into the CPD provided to schools by the DLs team and used by the Early Years and Public Health teams to further promote uptake of health checks and free nursery placements. | | |
| Cabinet member | Cllr Laura Mayes | Lead Officer | Helean Hughes |
| Executive response | 27.6.2022 | Accepted | |
| Action | | | Success criteria |
| Develop an attendance strategy in line with DfE guidance May 2022 | | | Attendance strategy developed. |
| Continue to incorporate attendance CPD within DL training where the opportunity present | | | Attendance for DLs improves (particularly for persistent absentees) |
| Early Years entitlement and Better2gether funding for disadvantaged two-year-olds promoted | | | Increased uptake in 2, 3- and 4-year-old places |
| A review and update of the integrated two-year health check and launch in September 22 | | | Two-year old integrated check is launched across health and education |
| | | | Data shows an increase in uptake of integrated reviews |
| Target date | | | |
| December 2022 | | | |

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| Recommendation No.7 | that the Cabinet Member for Children’s Services, Education and Skills adopts the term ‘educational neglect’ corporately to reflect the organisation’s collective effort to address this area. This will help the critical educational and life implications relating to that child/young person that may not previously otherwise have been communicated. It will support |
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| | thresholds, decision making and multi-agency planning and support to improve attendance and educational outcomes for children/young people. | | |
| Cabinet member | Cllr Laura Mayes | Lead Officer | Helean Hughes |
| Executive response | 27.6.2022 | Accepted | |
| Action | | | Success criteria |
| Present the findings and this recommendation to the SVPP and seek agreement from the partnership to include 'educational neglect' in the neglect strategy. | | | Educational neglect is recognised and addressed across the partnership. Educational neglect is addressed in the neglect strategy. |
| Target date | | | |
| November 2022 | | | |

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| Recommendation No.8 | that the Children's Select Committee invites a future report from the Executive detailing its transitional plans in response to the reduction in funding for School Improvement Advisers (SIAs). | | |
| Cabinet member | Cllr Laura Mayes | Lead Officer | Helean Hughes |
| Executive response | 27.6.2022 | Amended Change from School Improvement Advisers to School Improvement Service | |
| Action | | | Success criteria |
| Create a transitional plan in response to the funding available for school improvement. | | | Transitional plan developed |
| Target date | | | |
| December 2022 | | | |

4. The Executive welcome the findings of the DL task group and will look to establish a cross service 'Social Mobility Team' who can have oversight of all strategic plans, recommendations and activities to ensure strategies are fully aligned and effectively target improving outcomes for Disadvantaged Learners. These plans will include:
- DL Strategy
 - SEND Strategy
 - Wiltshire LA Council Business Plan
 - School Effectiveness Priorities linked to the Council Business Plan
 - *Moving forwards, making a difference: A planning guide for schools 2022–23*
 - [Guidance reports | EEF \(educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk\)](https://www.eef.org.uk/guidance-reports/)

Proposal

5. To note the executive response to the Final Report of the Disadvantaged Learners Task group.

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills

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