

Report

Cabinet Meeting

Part 1

Date: 20 March 2017

Item No: Please see above

Subject **Education Achievement Service (EAS) Business Plan 2017-2020**

Purpose To agree the Education Achievement Service Business Plan 2017-2020 and the Newport specific Annex 2017-2018

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Ward All

Summary This report presents the South East Wales EAS Business Plan 2017-2020. The plan sets out the priorities, programmes and outcomes to be achieved by the Education Achievement Service on behalf of the South East Wales Consortium.

The report also focuses upon the expected outcomes in Newport and the specific programmes that will be implemented during 2017-2018, these are contained in the Local Authority (LA) Annex.

Proposal Members are requested to:

- Note the priorities contained within the Business Plan and the Annex; and
- Consider the impact of the plan for communities within its local authority area;

Action by The Education Achievement Service in partnership with the LA

Timetable The Business Plan and related LA Annex will commence from April 1st 2017

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- James Harris (Chief Education Officer)
- Sarah Morgan (Deputy Chief Education Officer)
- Cllr. Gail Giles (Cabinet Member for Education)

Signed

1. Background

- 1.1. The South East Wales Consortium is required to submit to the Welsh Government a three-year Business Plan that will be updated annually. This is the fourth iteration of the plan first submitted in 2013. This plan covers the period 2017-2020. The LA Annex covers 2017-2018 and is focused upon the specific areas that require improvement within Newport schools.
- 1.2. Although this is a regional plan the EAS has continued to strengthen systems and processes to continue to improve pupil outcomes as a result of ongoing evaluation and the slow progress noted particularly in 2016. For example: Strengthening quality assurance processes around progress towards target submissions, the realignment of the work of secondary subject specialist for English, Welsh and maths in the delivery of bespoke support packages to schools based upon need and the introduction of a strategy for raising aspiration for more able learners.
- 1.3. This Business Plan sets out the overall targets to be achieved by the EAS working in partnership with the five local authorities. These outcomes are based on an analysis of pupil level data and a sound judgement of what should be achieved over the lifetime of the plan. The programmes of work to achieve these outcomes are set out in detail for 2017-18 and will be reviewed for future years. The targets for schools in Newport are contained within the LA Annex.
- 1.4. The Business Plan sets out the overall priorities for the South East region and in addition an Annex that focuses in particular on the priorities and programmes for Newport. All Amber and Red schools are noted in the Annex and are subject to regular scrutiny of progress at Intervention and Education Improvement Board (EIB) meetings. In addition, all schools in Newport are in receipt of bespoke support packages based on school needs. These have been discussed with senior LA Officers and the Cabinet Member for Education prior to submission. A half yearly review of progress towards the Newport Annex will be provided in November 2017.
- 1.5. The South East Wales EAS Business Plan sets out the following priorities:
 - To raise aspiration, to improve pupil outcomes and reduce variance across schools and LAs, to improve the quality of teaching and leadership and accelerate the progress of those schools in amber and red support categories;
 - To implement a regional strategy and Professional Learning Offer that is focused on improving the wellbeing and accelerating outcomes for learners, particularly those facing the challenges of poverty;
 - To implement a regional strategy and Professional Learning Offer (including Governor Development) that covers all the required milestones to improve the capacity and quality of teaching and leadership across the region;
 - To refine the Regional Strategy for Literacy (English and Welsh) and Numeracy in collaboration with key partners to accelerate outcomes at all key stages;
 - To lead, support and appropriately challenge schools to implement the Successful Futures agenda and changes to non-core GSCE specifications; and
 - To rationalise the Regional Model for the delivery of the Self-Improving System.

1.6. The Business Plan has been aligned to the following policies;

- Qualified for Life - the national Education Improvement Strategy (2014)
- Successful Futures - the review of curriculum and assessment (2015)
- Teaching tomorrow's teachers - Options for the future of initial teacher education in Wales (2015)
- Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010
- Child Poverty Strategy for Wales
- Welsh Government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy

1.7. This plan must be endorsed by Cabinet and annual updates on progress will be provided for Members.

2. Financial Summary

2.1. Financial arrangements for the indicative core funding to the EAS from Newport City Council for 2017-2018 is £849,917 (this represents a 3% efficiency saving on the previous contribution in 2016-2017).

The exact detail of this is noted below:

EAS 'As Is' Model Aug 2012 *	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15 (funding levels set by WG, based on RSG formula to LA)	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18 3% Cut to Core	% Movement since 11/12 to 17/18
-----All % reduction to core are based on the previous year's contribution-----							
1,095,407	926,421	926,421	934,254	902,489	875,415	849,917	-22%

3. Risks

3.1. A detailed risk register is a supporting document to the Business Plan and is available on the EAS website.

3.2. Changes in curriculum specifications at KS4 this year are very likely to impact upon pupil outcomes for Year 11 in 2017. There is a high degree of uncertainty within the system with grade boundaries for individual subjects being unknown, new GCSE (numeracy, Science) and changes to the overall performance measures. This makes it difficult for direct comparisons to be made with previous KS4 pupil outcomes.

4. Consultation

4.1. The EAS Business Plan has been developed in consultation with a wide range of key stakeholders, feedback has informed the final version of the plan:

- Education Achievement Service staff
- South East Wales Directors / Chief Education Officers and Diocesan Directors
- Joint Executive Group
- Education Achievement Service Company Board
- Education Achievement Service Audit and Risk Assurance Committee
- Circulated to individual Local Authority Education Scrutiny Committees
- Regional Headteacher Strategy Group
- Regional Governor Strategy Group
- Regional Youth Forum

5. Background Papers

5.1. EAS Business Plan 2017-2020

5.2. Local Authority Annex 2017-2018

6. Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The EAS Business Plan is a key driver of the Councils Improvement Plan and the Education Service Plan

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:

All local authorities have a duty to strive to develop a “Prosperous Wales” by developing “skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities.” Furthermore, regardless of the socio-economic demographic of an individual school community, all schools will be challenged and supported to improve pupil attainment with a view to create “more equal wales” that enables pupils to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances.

Options Available:

To note the report and consider any issues arising that cabinet may wish to draw to the attention of the Chief Education Officer or the Cabinet Member for Education and Young People

Preferred Option and Why: N/A

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

Newport’s contribution to the EAS in 2016/17 was £875,415. The indicative figure of £849,917 for 2017/18 is accounted for in Education’s budget and represents a 3% saving on 16/17 contribution. The contribution rates to the EAS by all partner authorities are under constant review and discussed with the EAS. Apart from the normal governance process operated between the EAS and partner authorities, the EAS Company Secretary meets on a regular basis with regional finance colleagues to update on the financial performance of the service in order that any potential issues financially with the service can be reported back to S151 Officers for appropriate actions and considerations

Comments of Monitoring Officer

There are no specific legal issues arising from the Report. The EAS Business Plan reflects national priorities and standards for educational improvements. Cabinet are not required to formally approve the Business Plan as this is an EAS strategic document which has been approved at Board level by the Joint Executive Group, following consultation with key stakeholders.

Staffing Implications: Comments of Head of People and Business Change

The report details the EAS strategic plan and as such, there are no specific staffing implications. The report rightly highlights the requirements on Local Authorities detailed within the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and also a requirement for the EAS to support the priorities for Newport in relation to educational attainment.

Comments of Cabinet Member

I fully support the EAS Business Plan 2017-2020 which has been co-constructed with LAs, schools, Governing Bodies and the Joint Executive Group. This is an ambitious plan which is expected to raise attainment in the priority areas of Key Stage 3 and 4 and maintain our high standards achieved in Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2. Pupils disadvantaged by poverty continue to be a national and local focus, ensuring that all of our learners have equal opportunities and access to further education, employment and training.

Local issues: N/A

Scrutiny Committees:

This report will be reported to Scrutiny (for information only) on March 22nd 2017.

Dated: 27th February 2017