

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES SCRUTINY BRIEFING PAPER

REPORT FROM: Education

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1. SUBJECT: School Effectiveness Strategy 2023-2026

2. BACKGROUND:

Blackburn with Darwen have operated a school led school improvement system for over 10 years. However, given the changing educational landscape and with the move to more schools becoming academies BWD commissioned an independent review of the School Improvement Strategy. This took place around 18 months ago, included key stakeholders and was conducted by Steve Munby (CBE and former CEO of Education Trust). Following the review, there was a further period of consultation on the recommendations made. The review findings and consultation feedback were shared at BWD's Partnership Conference in March 2023. In September 2023 we launched the co-produced revised School Effectiveness Strategy for 2023-2026.

3. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS:

The strategy builds on the Council's Corporate Mission,

'Every child and young person have the opportunities to fulfil their potential.'

And it outlines the following:

5 Missions,

- Every child and adult in the borough to feel proud to belong to Blackburn with Darwen.
- Every child and young person to be a powerful learner, continuing to improve on previous best. Progress is our key focus.
- Every teacher in every classroom to be as good as they can be in what they teach and how they teach.
- Strong and transparent commitment across all schools and partners to collective responsibility for the children and young people of Blackburn with Darwen
- A rich and broad educational offer that is powerful and outward facing so that Blackburn with Darwen is a compelling place to teach, to lead and to learn.

6 Public Commitments,

- We will work together to provide civic leadership in Blackburn with Darwen and as schools and trusts we will act as "anchor institutions". We will do all we can to advance education as a wider common good, creating the conditions for purposeful collaboration with other schools and with other public sector partners, the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise sector and stakeholders.
- We will be ambitious for children and young people. Always setting the bar high, even if it makes us feel uncomfortable, because by working together anything is possible.
- We will seek to be a learning community. We will identify best practice and research to generate a professional learning community. We will not be afraid to ask for help and we will offer support and expertise wherever we can, openly sharing and exchanging data and intelligence.
- We will focus on quality and impact. We will hold ourselves to account with clear goals that clearly link to outcomes for children and young people. We will be open to the scrutiny of others, knowing that accountability and review is key to the continued success of any learning community.
- We will celebrate diversity. We will respect the diversity of schools across the borough and we will see this as a strength, whilst ensuring no one is excluded or left behind. We will continue to acknowledge the respective accountability roles of the Dioceses, the Regional Department for Education Director, the boards and CEOs of multi-academy trusts and the Local Authority with regard to schools, academies and early years settings in Blackburn with Darwen.
- We will lead with moral purpose. We will be committed to the success of children and adults in all of our schools and settings across the borough. We will celebrate the successes of our partners as we would our own.

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6 agreed joint priorities that all schools across the borough will collectively work on,

- A common speech, language, and communication framework delivered across all Early Years settings.
- Improving attainment for all children.
- Improving emotional health and wellbeing of all children of young people.
- A consistent approach to improving school attendance.
- Delivering on a high-quality RSHE curriculum.
- Improving provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

The School Effectiveness Strategy also provides details on how the School Effectiveness Strategy works and how these priorities will drive forward improvements in schools over the next 3 years.

6. Financial Implications

The Monitoring and Brokering Grant is utilised in accordance with the grant stipulations to provide each School Improvement Group (SIG) with a small financial resource to work towards the identified priorities in the strategy (£2000 per school on receipt of annual improvement plan). The accountable board is the School Effectiveness Board which is independently chaired by Steve Munby.

5. Next Steps

- Ensure that the SIGs work on 6 key priorities over the next 3 years.
- Ensure that the SEB runs effectively and monitors, challenges, and supports the progress of SIGs towards identified priorities.
- Fulfil the 5 missions and 6 public commitments.