

**CABINET MEMBER (EDUCATION)**

14<sup>th</sup> November 2012

Cabinet Member

Present: Councillor Kershaw

Employees Present: S. Diamond (Children, Learning & Young People Directorate)  
C. Green (Children, Learning & Young People Directorate)  
D. Haley (Children, Learning & Young People Directorate)  
K. Ireland (Children, Learning & Young People Directorate)  
R. Lickfold (Children, Learning & Young People Directorate)  
J. Newman (Finance & Legal Services Directorate)  
M. Salmon (Customer & Workforce Services Directorate)  
D. Wallis (Children, Learning & Young People's Directorate)

Apologies: Councillor Williams

**Public Business**

**22. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**23. Minutes**

(a) The minutes of the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012 were signed as a true record.

(b) There were no matters arising.

**24. Review of the New Coventry Strategy for improving Attendance**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People that summarised the levels of attendance in the 2011/12 school year. Attendance had improved across all phases, however Persistent Absence appeared to have increased as the Persistent Absence threshold had been raised from attendance of 80% and below, to 85%. The report set out the enhancements to the Local Authority support for attendance.

The Local Authority had maintained close monitoring of attendance through the Capita One Attendance Module, to allow early warning of changes in the attendance patterns for all children and young people. The System updated school attendance data daily supplying the Council with accurate data to inform its work and to monitor and challenge schools. Where levels of attendance in a school had been of concern, the Council worked with key school staff to support their self-review and improvement of strategies and actions to improve attendance. Education Improvement Advisers supported schools to achieve the National Average for both Overall Attendance and Persistent Absence measures.

On 1<sup>st</sup> September 2012 the local Authority introduced a new multi-disciplinary approach to tackling persistent absence which replaced the education welfare service. The approach involved schools and other educational settings working with the Children and

Family First Team; Social Care; workers from the Integrated Youth Support Service; Community Safety Team; the Police and other agencies, to address issues that impacted on a child or young person's ability to attend school regularly and make academic progress. Such circumstances being family bereavement and breakdown, financial difficulties leading to loss of the family home, unemployment, domestic violence, bullying, peer pressure, inability to access the curriculum, low self-esteem, poverty impacting on pupils' everyday requirements. The Overcoming Barriers to Learning Programme continued to identify improving school attendance as a City wide priority for 2012/13 and looked at ways they could offer school to school support, including academies, around early identification and intervention for attendance issues.

The report provided comparative absence data, from the Department of Further Education, for Coventry and its statistical neighbours, for primary, secondary and special schools, for school years from 2007/2008 to 2011/2012.

As there were high levels of authorised absence in some schools, the new Attendance Strategy proposed that schools became more challenging to parents who requested taking their children out of school during term time for holidays. Parents would be required to put in a written request to the school for exceptional leave of absence, which the head would have the discretion to approve. Schools would also be expected to work closely with the School Nursing Service to determine whether there were reasonable medical grounds for the absence of individual pupils and where a pupil was absent with no acceptable medical grounds, the absence would be classed as unauthorised and followed up accordingly. The new Strategy set out the roles and responsibilities of Parents/Carers; schools and the Local Authority and other agencies, such as the Integrated Youth Support Service, for improving attendance. Additional co-ordinators had been appointed to support schools in staff training; completion of assessments and to model the role of the Lead Professional. If a positive outcome was not achieved it was referred to the Children and Family Worker Schools.

All schools had been asked by the Children and Family First Team, who had responsibility for providing statutory and non-statutory duties for school attendance, to identify targets for the reduction of persistent absence. In 2012/13 there continued to be a greater focus on primary schools and early identification and intervention.

Schools were asked to:

- Identify which pupils made up their persistent absentees and, recognising that some pupils may have a chronic or serious illness or injury, take specific action as appropriate.
- Identify pupils meeting the persistent absentee criteria who had high levels of unauthorised absence or a mixture of unauthorised and authorised absence.
- Identify pupils who met the persistent absentee criteria where there was a reason to doubt the justification for their authorised absence.
- Implement actions for those cases through school staff and external service support services/agencies
- Use a whole-school action plan for tackling persistent absence that committed all staff, the senior management team and governors to improving the attendance of persistent absentees and reducing their numbers. Schools were asked to track and monitor the attendance of Children and Young People and put in preventative measures and early intervention to prevent non-attendance from escalating.

- Multi-disciplinary working would continue to be the key element in the drive to support families and reduce absence co-ordinated by the Children and family First Team.

**RESOLVED that, after due consideration of the report and matters raised at the meeting, Cabinet Member (Education):**

- (1) Approves the enhancements to the Strategy and action plan on school attendance.**
- (2) Agrees that a report on the impact of the new strategy be submitted to Cabinet Member (Education) in the new municipal year 2013.**

## **25. Pupil Behaviour in Coventry Schools and Educational Settings in 2011/2012**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People that summarised the data on pupil behaviour in schools and other educational settings in Coventry. Judgements in recent Ofsted inspections indicated that behaviour was good or outstanding in 86% of primary schools, 95% of secondary settings and 88% of special schools. These figures matched or exceeded the data for England. National data for 2010/11 and released in July 2012, showed the incidence of fixed term and permanent exclusions in Coventry to be low in relation to statistical neighbours. Local data for 2011/12 showed the overall incidence of fixed term exclusions to be lower than in 2010/11, but there had been a rise in permanent exclusions.

Coventry City Council had a policy of working in strong partnership and collaboration with schools to avoid the use of permanent exclusion wherever possible and to reduce the use of exclusions more generally. In line with best practice nationally, the Local Authority had sought to develop a range of alternative strategies to achieve this. One of the key strategies had been the establishment and on-going development of a Partnership Agreement with secondary schools that set out the policy, principles and procedures for the prevention and management of exclusions and support for pupils who were considered Hard to Place. The policy was overseen through the work of the Social Inclusion Placement Panel, which included Headteachers from the area behaviour partnerships as well as the Local Authority, who reported its work to the Local Authority School Admissions Forum.

At the start of the 2011/12 school year the strategy included the development of a more graduated response to challenging behaviour in KS3/4 through establishing Area Behaviour Partnerships so that more opportunities for support to young people with challenging behaviour were provided in mainstream school settings before alternative settings were considered. Headteachers working with the Local Authority established two Area Behaviour Partnerships (East and West), providing school to school support for pupils presenting challenging behaviour. The Local Authority supported each partnership in establishing its own protocols, devolving £30,000 p.a. to each.

The report provided comparative data, from the Department of Further Education, for Coventry and its statistical neighbours, for primary, secondary and special schools, for school years from 2007/2008 to 2011/2012.

To further improve pupil behaviour three existing developments would be taken forward:

- Given the rise in the permanent exclusion of Key Stage 2 pupils and the profile of demand for primary BESD placements, the formation of a mainstream school based provision for pupils experiencing BESD. Funding was agreed by the Schools Forum in 2011/12. Staff recruitment and accommodation planning were underway.
- In Key Stage 3/4, in order to maximise the number of pupils having access to the full range of curricular opportunities afforded by mainstream schools, to further develop school-based educational provision made by the two behaviour partnerships.
- In Key Stage S3/4, due to the paucity of in-city BESD special school places for girls, the further development of BESD provision for girls through a partnership between Tile Hill Wood Academy and Woodfield School.

**RESOLVED that after due consideration of the report and matters raised at the meeting, Cabinet Member (Education) accepts the report and approves the further development of three existing strategies, as detailed in the report, to further improve pupil behaviour.**

## **26. Progress Update on the Implementation of the Local Strategy for Raising the Participation Age**

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People on the implementation of the Local Strategy for Raising the Participation Age.

As part of the spending review and The Importance of Teaching White Paper 2010, the Government confirmed its commitment to raising the participation age to 18 by 2015. The Education and Skills Act 2008 increased the minimum age at which young people could leave learning, requiring them to continue in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 from 2013 and until their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday from 2015.

Guidance for Local Authorities: Funding 16-19 Education and Training, stated 'when raising the participation age comes into effect from 2013, local authorities will have new duties to promote participation and to make arrangements to identify young people not participating. These complement the existing duty to encourage, enable and assist young people to participate'. A position paper was produced that gave background, local context, current provision and risks associated with Raising the Participation Age for the City Council. A consultation event took place in May 2012, involving schools, colleges, providers and other stakeholders to promote an increased understanding and awareness and to contribute to the strategic direction and implications that Raising the Participation Age would have in Coventry.

In order to implement the requirements of Raising the Participation Age, the Local Authority had appraised the current position with regard to participation and provision, and had identified potential risks associated with it. A number of actions had been put in place to take forward the work needed to ensure 100% of young people accessed education, employment or training on leaving statutory education within the context of Raising the Participation Age at 17 (2013) and 18 (2015). The work to be taken forward would link to the Overcoming Barriers to Learning Programme, including raising aspirations of the most vulnerable groups. In addition the work would need to take account of new provision in the City, for example the University Technical College. Changes to the delivery of careers guidance was at the heart of the Government's Education Act 2011. It placed a new duty on schools to secure access to impartial and independent careers guidance for every pupil in years 9 to 11 from September 2012 and repealed the requirement for schools to provide a programme of careers education. It retained the Local Authority's duty to encourage,

enable or assist young people's participation in education or training and to assist the most vulnerable young people and those at risk of becoming not engaged in education, employment or training

To take forward the full range of work required for the implementation of Raising the Participation Age of 16 and 17 year olds from 2013, the Local Authority had/would implement the following:-

- 1) The establishment of a Raising the Participation Age Working Group to continue to raise awareness of Raising of the Participation Age, agree future strategies, link in with the work on curriculum development across all post 16 provision and determine a way forward for the City. External members would be invited to join this group with representatives from colleges, apprenticeship providers, foundation learning providers, schools and CSWP -The Careers Guidance Company. The Groups would feed into workstreams.
- 2) Develop 4 workstreams to take forward the work required to introduce a full strategy for the implementation of Raising the Participation Age, through a workplan, with the work of each group tracked through a local authority project board, as follows:

#### **Communications**

Aim – To develop a strategy that would ensure the main messages regarding Raising the Participation Age were communicated to parents, young people, schools, colleges, training providers, the voluntary sector and employers.

#### **Sufficient and Adequate Provision**

Aim – To ensure current provision was 'fit for purpose', identify gaps in provision and barriers to progression.

#### **16-18 NEET**

Aim – To develop a clear process for those young people at risk of becoming NEET and targeted interventions delivered.

#### **Data & Tracking 16-18 and IAG**

Aim – To develop a process to track the participation of all young people in the City and ensure all young people have access to appropriate Information Advice and Guidance (IAG).

**RESOLVED that after due consideration of the report and matters raised at the meeting, Cabinet Member (Education):**

- 1) Endorses the actions taken to date on Raising the Participation Age**
- 2) Agrees the strategy suggested for the implementation of the workstreams to take forward the work**
- 3) Approves the establishment of a Project Board to oversee the work in conjunction with the 11-25 Partnership**
- 4) Agrees that the overall strategy for Raising the Participation Age be taken to the Cabinet in April /May 2013.**

## 27. Appointments to the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education

The Cabinet Member (Education) considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People that sought approval of the appointment of representatives of the Hindu Temple Society and ASCL to the Coventry Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.

The Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education was established under the Education Reform Act 1988 to advise the Local Authority on matters concerning religious education in community schools and the religious education provision to be made in accordance with an Agreed Syllabus. These matters may include methods of teaching, training for teachers; and, choice of materials and resources. The Advisory Council comprised 4 Groups, appointed to by the City Council:

- A Church of England Group (Group 1);
- A Group representing other Christian denominations and other Faiths which reflect the principal religious traditions in the area (Group 2);
- A Group representing teachers (Group 3); and,
- A Group representing the City Council (Group 4)

The membership of Group 2 of the Advisory Council was undersubscribed and as a member of the Hindu Temple Society, Mr Ram Krishan was nominated to serve on this Group to represent Other Faiths. In addition, following the resignation of Mary Armstrong as a member of Group 3, Mrs Carol Buchanan was nominated, as a member of ASCL, as a replacement teaching representative. Both appointments were for a period of 4 years.

**RESOLVED that after due consideration of the report and matters raised at the meeting, Cabinet Member (Education) approved the appointments of Mr Ram Krishan of the Hindu Temple Society, to Group 2 to represent Other Faiths and Mrs Carol Buchanan as a member of ASCL, to Group 3 to represent the teaching union, to the Coventry Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education for a period of four years.**

## 28. Appointment of Authority Governors

**RESOLVED that, having met the Local Authority criteria for the appointment of Local Authority school governors, Cabinet Member (Education) approved the appointment and re-appointment of the persons listed below for the schools and terms of office indicated:-**

### Authority Governor: New Appointments

Name	School	Term of Office
Mr Robert Griffiths	Allesley Primary	4 September 2016
Cllr P Townshend	Allesley Hall Primary	4 September 2016
Mrs P Burton	Bishop Ullathorne Catholic School	4 September 2016
Mr T Sharman	Gosford Park Primary	4 September 2016
Mrs M Cantillon	St John Fisher Catholic Primary	4 September 2016
Mr R Drew	Whitmore Park Primary	4 September 2016

## Authority Governor: Re-Appointments

<b>Name</b>	<b>School</b>	<b>Term of Office</b>
Mrs Haley Short	Alderman's Green Primary	21 October 2016
Mrs Gill Browett	Charter Primary	21 October 2016
Mrs Pauline Davies	Ernesford Grange Community School	21 October 2016
Cllr J O'Boyle	Gosford Park Primary	21 October 2016
Mr Muneeb Mirza	St Augustine's Catholic Primary	21 October 2016
Dr M Chappell	Sowe Valley Primary	21 October 2016
Mr A Guymer	Woodfield School	21 October 2016
Mrs D Sherwood	Wyken Croft Primary	21 October 2016

### 29. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

### 30. **Any Other Items of Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.

### **Private Business**

Nil

(Meeting closed at 12.45 p.m.)