

Appendix 1

Notes on Overview & Scrutiny Education Task and Finish Group meeting on disadvantage

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The Overview and Scrutiny committee was interested in exploring how to build better links with schools, academies and colleges across Oldham to gain a more detailed insight into the challenges and opportunities faced by head teachers and consequently consider how the work of the group could assist education across the borough. Discussion took place in September 2017 between the Director of Education and Early Years and the Chair of the Committee and it was agreed that a meeting be scheduled with a selection of head teachers and elected member representatives of the committee.

An Overview and Scrutiny Task and finish group meeting was held on 20 September 2017 and the head teachers, elected members and officers listed below attended the session.

Head Teachers/Principals

Helen Hampson – Higher Failsworth Primary School

Dave McEntee – Hathershaw College

Gillian Kay – Propps Hall Primary School

Anne Redmond – Kingfisher Special School

Jane Brierley – Glodwick N&I School

Jayne Clark – Oldham 6th Form College

James Haseldine – Waterhead Academy

Elected members

Cllr McLaren

Cllr Roberts

Officers

Andrew Sutherland – Director of Education & Early Years

Tony Shepherd – Head of Schools & Learning Service

Programme for the session

A programme for an elected member and head teacher round table discussion was set around the theme of “how to improve the attainment and wider achievement of disadvantaged children & young people in Oldham”. The session began with a presentation from the Director of Education & Early Years on the challenges and opportunities faced by schools in Oldham with an analysis of the data. A copy of the presentation is attached to this report. Following the presentation each head teacher summarised the issues faced in their establishments, describing their cohorts, communities and key groups of students. They went on to explain the strategies that they have adopted to meet the challenges that they face, and how these strategies have impacted upon educational and wider outcomes for their students. Some head teachers described their contributions as system leaders to the developing schools and academies framework in Oldham.

This led to round table discussion on a range of topics:

- The pupil demographics in Oldham.
- The opportunities and challenges afforded by the high proportion of children arriving in school with English as an Additional Language, and in particular International New Arrivals.
- The challenging educational performance of White Boys.
- The best use of pupil premium funding to reduce gaps in attainment and progress between disadvantage students and their peers.
- The health and wellbeing challenges in the community, including physical, physiological and psychological challenges.
- Attainment levels and trends from Early Years good level of development; Key Stage 1 phonics and reading, writing and maths; Key Stage 2 reading, writing and maths and Key Stage 4.
- A curriculum offer which meets national expectations and local requirements.
- Appropriate post school destinations for students, in particular those in the groups identified above.
- The nature of the developing school led system and the role of the local authority in supporting inclusion, pupil place planning and outcomes through school improvement.
- The role of elected members in this system, given their democratic mandate for educational provision for the children and young people in the borough.

Outcome and next steps from the session

The elected members present agreed to support the schools, academies and the local authority in any way possible.

Key action points were:

Elected members to promote integrated working across all council services where possible particularly where it supported the health and wellbeing of children young people and families.

Elected members to support school governing bodies in their wards and promote the messages of inclusion and support at all levels from 0-19 in order to facilitate improved learning for all pupils.

Elected members where appropriate to offer advice and share the work of the council as the democratic representative of families in the community.

Head teachers to invite elected member in their wards to the school and utilise their expertise as appropriate.

The O&S Committee to review the report and consider how to communicate the learning from the session across the council and better support schools and the colleges to deliver high quality outcomes for children, young people and families across the borough.