Report to OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY BOARD

OESC Update

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Purpose of the Report

This report is to update members of Overview and Scrutiny on the progress towards implementing the recommendations of the Oldham Education and Skills Commission.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny note the content of this report.
OESC Update

1 Background

1.1 The OESC report was published on Friday, January 15, 2016. The report, written by Baroness Estelle Morris, reflects the work of an 18 month investigation identifying areas of best practice and underachievement, investigating the challenges faced and developing a path to future success.

1.2 The OESC report sets out a vision for Oldham to create a ‘Self-improving education system’ where schools, colleges and all interested parties work together in a new collaborative partnership.

1.3 It makes 19 recommendations (see Appendix A) and focuses on achieving two key targets in Oldham by 2020:
   - All performance indicators to be at the national average or above;
   - All education providers to be judged ‘good’ or better by Ofsted.

1.4 Members should note that schools engagement with the report and its implementation is entirely voluntary.

2 Current Position

2.1 The Implementation of the OESC is going well. Schools and the Local authority have worked together to appoint Mr Adrian Calvert to be the Education Partnership Leader, Mr Calvert takes up his post in September. His role will be to garner support for the recommendations of the report and to work across all key partners to implement them.

2.2 The new body, Oldham Education Partnership is in the final stages of its formation. Oldham Commissioners have opted to use the existing “organisation” OLEP (Oldham Leaders in Education Partnership) to form the new body. It is proposed that the current directors of OLEP will stand down and the 9 members proposed for the new Body (3 Oldham Council, 3 Schools, 3 Independent) will take up their board places. The new board will then take on responsibility for holding the partnership to account as it takes the recommendations forward. Statutory powers of intervention that rest with the council will remain with the council.

2.3 Whilst appointments and legal entity discussions have progressed we have not waited to implement the most pressing aspects of the report and its recommendations.
   - Schools, working together in collaborative have aligned many existing work streams to the priorities of the OESC and an interim implementation plan has been drawn together. Adrian Calvert will progress this.
   - There are work hubs on many of the recommendations, for example: International New Arrivals, Initial Teacher Training (The Oldham Teacher), Early Years. These involve schools owning the issue and creating their own solutions. Each work hub has an action plan.
• Conferences have been held which have resulted in developments to the Oldham Leader and The Oldham Curriculum including the Pledge, worked on with the Oldham Youth Council. The Pledge details experiences and opportunities that should be available to all Oldham Children.
• Teaching School Alliances continue to work on The Oldham Teacher; indeed Oldham now hosts a SCITT. (School-centered initial teacher training). This will ensure a “home grown” supply of good teachers
• Free School submissions have been made by Kingfisher School to develop much needed additional SEND provision and the Newbridge Group to develop Alternative provision.

2.4 School to school support has continued to thrive and across Oldham we have seen significant progress this year in OFSTED outcomes.
  • 63% of secondary schools are now good or outstanding compared to 39% at the start of the year.
  • 90% Primary schools continue to be judged good and outstanding. In both phases we have seen schools coming out of special measures and increasingly schools previously judged to require improvement securing good ratings.
  • These improvements would not be made without the commitment to system leadership and the futures of the children of Oldham by local schools, academies and the local authority.
  • Recent test and examination results indicate a positive direction of travel in attainment and achievement with further analysis from an Oldham, Greater Manchester and North West perspective to be done.

2.5 Baroness Estelle Morris has been briefed by the Oldham commissioners and she is very pleased with what has been achieved since the publication of the report.

2.6 We will continue to formalise and embed processes and protocols such as for data sharing; launch campaigns, for example on The Pledge; and initiate a communications strategy. To do this we rely on the continued support of local schools and academies, the continued support and interest of Members and officers across the council.

3 Key Issues/Questions for Overview and Scrutiny to Discuss

3.1 How will elected members interface with the new body and the Education Partnership Leader?

5 Links to Corporate Outcomes

5.1 Links to Corporate values and behaviors. Priority 3 A Working Borough: “Through the Education and Skills Commission we will work with partners to improve education and skills outcomes for all our young people, giving them the best possible preparation for adulthood and the world of work”

6 Additional Supporting Information

6.1 None

7 Consultation

7.1 None
8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix A – The Commission’s 19 Recommendations