

EDUCATION MONITORING PANEL UPDATE

Report of the Director of Education, Work & Skills

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The Education Monitoring Panel has not met since 4 April 2019. Its meetings were cancelled during the COVID 19 pandemic as both end of key stage assessments and routine Ofsted Inspections were put on hold. As a consequence of this deferment, it has taken some time for robust and comparative national data to once again become available.
- 1.2 Now that end of Key Stage and comparative national data is once again available it is sensible to review the workings of the panel and consider whether it remains necessary.

2. THE ROLE OF THE MONITORING PANEL AND CHILDREN AND FAMILIES SCRUTINY PANEL

- 2.1 The Monitoring Panel advises the Cabinet, the Executive Director, People and Integration and the Director of Education, Work and Skills on all aspects of the assessment of pupils; the monitoring and evaluation of the education service, including performance of schools; the curriculum; matters relating to the Standards Fund and the consideration of reports relating to educational establishments and the careers service. The Monitoring Panel met twice annually.
- 2.2 The Children and Families Scrutiny committee is responsible for overview and scrutiny of the Children, Families and Education Portfolio. This includes oversight of all aspects of the Council's responsibilities for School Improvement. The Scrutiny committee meets 6 times a year.
- 2.3 There is some significant cross over in the responsibilities of the two committees, with both concerned with the performance of the education service and schools.
- 2.4 Whilst the Monitoring Panel has been unable to meet, the Children and Families Scrutiny committee has received updates on School Performance via the PPRR. This has allowed continued member oversight of performance. This has also meant that school performance could be evaluated in a wider Children's Services context, in line with our Stockport Family Model.
- 2.5 Whilst, performance issues have been monitored in this way, specific update reports on School Performance have not been provided to the committee beyond the PPRR.

3. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 There are no direct financial implications from the proposal.

4. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The Education Monitoring Panel's functions can be undertaken via the relevant Scrutiny Committee. The Council Meeting will need to resolve to disestablish the Education Monitoring Panel and agree that its functions be discharged by the Children and Families Scrutiny Committee.

5. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

- 5.1 There are none.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 6.1 There are none.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 7.1 There is none.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That it be noted that the key function of the Education Monitoring Panel has been to exercise a monitoring function in relation to all aspects of education service quality.
- 8.2 That it be further noted that the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee has a statutory duty to exercise all functions relating to the scrutiny and oversight of education matters.
- 8.3 [Scrutiny Committee] – It is recommended that the Scrutiny Committee note the report and provide any comments to be included in the report to Cabinet
- 8.4 [Cabinet] – That Cabinet endorse and commend the report to the Council Meeting
- 8.5 [Council Meeting] That the Council Meeting resolves to disestablish the Education Monitoring Panel and that its functions and duties, with particular regard to education performance, be discharged by the Children & Families Scrutiny Committee, with specific reports on School Performance scheduled for consideration in addition to the regular PPRR.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

There are none

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Tim Bowman on telephone number Tel: 07977 661073 or alternatively email tim.bowman@stockport.gov.uk